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In Memoriam

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by Robert K. Brown

Reports Of Our Death Greatly Exaggerated

On 11 January 1993, the U.S. Supreme Court declined to review the decision of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit in *Braun vs. Soldier of Fortune Magazine*. The Court of Appeals had upheld a verdict and judgment for \$4,375,000 against *Soldier Of Fortune*.

In 1985, Bruce Gastwirth and John Horton Moore were trying to have Richard Braun, a business associate, murdered. After several unsuccessful attempts to kill Braun, they contacted Richard Savage through an ad in *SOF* offering his services for "body guard, courier and other special skills." Savage was a Vietnam veteran with a good war record; he had worked as a security supervisor, policeman and corrections officer. He had no criminal record and testified his intent in running the ad was to obtain legitimate employment. Unfortunately, Savage had fallen in with evil companions, including Sean Trevor Doutre. Gastwirth and Moore hired Savage and Doutre to kill Richard Braun, an act in the course of which one of Braun's sons was wounded.

Richard Braun's two sons sued *SOF*, alleging in effect that *SOF* was negligent in printing this classified ad, and that this alleged negligence was a proximate cause of the death of their father. The case was tried to a jury in the federal District Court at Montgomery, Alabama, in December 1990 resulting in a verdict and judgment for \$4,375,000 against *SOF*. The Court of Appeal for the 11th Circuit, which divided 2-1, held that there was a duty not to publish an ad "where the ad on its face ... makes it apparent that there is a substantial danger of harm to the public."

An earlier case, *Eimann vs. SOF*, stemming from somewhat similar circumstances, was thrown out by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 5th Circuit in August 1989, holding in effect that unless the ad was a clear solicitation to

criminal activity, there was no duty not to publish. Thus we have two quite distinct standards in the 5th and 11th circuits, one clear and comprehensible, and the other an enticingly vague invitation to the exercise of creativity and to the plaintiffs' bar.

This is a major threat to the First Amendment rights of all print media and electronic journalism. It is not *SOF* alone saying this. No less than three *amicus curiae* briefs were filed in support of *SOF's* position. One brief was signed by the National Newspaper Association, the Alabama Press Association, the American Booksellers Foundation for Free Expression, the Association of Alternative News Weeklies, the Freedom to Read Foundation, *High Times* magazine, Magazine Publishers of America Inc., News World Communications Inc. (publishers of *The Washington Times*), Newsletter Publishers Association Inc., the Radio Television News Directors Association, Time Inc. and the VV Publishing Corp. (publishers of *The Village Voice*); the other two briefs were filed by the National Association of Information Services and by the National Rifle Association.

This may be the first time *High Times* magazine and *The Village Voice* have come down on the same side of an issue with the National Rifle Association. Even Time Inc., from whom we differ on a long list of issues, stood up and was counted.

Thus ends the legal epic, but not *SOF*. As we go to press, our attorneys are negotiating with plaintiffs' lawyers to settle the matter. About all we can say at this time is that we will stay in business, subscriptions and advertising contracts will be fulfilled and we shall continue to seek out and slay the dragons, *como de costumbre*. The 14th Annual *SOF* Convention will take place as planned 15-19 September 1993 at Las Vegas, Nevada. See you there. ☒

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FEATURES



Croatia — page 52

Photo: SOF Staff

REQUIEM FOR A WARRIOR Greg Walker
Al Mar, craftsman of the highest order and longtime friend of SOF, passed away last fall. Al exemplified the martial spirit and coupled it with an entrepreneurial zeal that made his blades the best in the business 28

AID, ATTACK & RESTORE HOPE Dale B. Cooper
Death, terror and anarchy are a part of everyday life in Somalia. SOF correspondent Dale B. Cooper spent three weeks in this hell and reports on how U.S. troops brought some order to the chaos 30

SOF TEAM TRAINS THE KING'S CADRE Col. Robert K. Brown
SOF sends handpicked training team to help out elite King Tomislav Brigade holding the line against Serbian aggression in Bosnia 36

RIGHT CALIBER — RIGHT PRICE Peter G. Kokalis
Sturm, Ruger and Co. has produced a rugged, quality .45 with first-rate accuracy potential at an attractive price — check out the KP90DC 40

HEROES IN A HORNET'S NEST Isaac Staats
A Hatchet Force big on guts but small in number blocks one of Uncle Ho's main supply arteries in Laos for several days, fending off hundreds of NVA regulars armed with heavy machine guns and mortars 44

HOLLAND'S HARD-CORPS BBE Albert Scarpita
Like their better-known counterparts the British SAS and Germany's GSG-9, Holland's elite counterterrorists are a force to be reckoned with 48



Somalia — page 30 Photo: Peterson/Liaison



COLUMNS

Bulletin Board 6
Turncoat Top Gun's Story

Full Auto 12
Building A Better Bullet Hose

World SitRep 16

FLAK 19

Adventure Quartermaster 24
Watches & Electronic Ears

Supply Locker 75

Classified 78

Advertisers Index 82



Dutch BBE— page 48

Photo: Albert Scarpita

CLASSIC ARMS, CROATIAN COURAGE Peter G. Kokalis
The thin Croatian line checking Serb aggression doesn't have the luxury of choosing which small arms to use — they take what they can get. Our Tech Editor found an odd collection of vintage German and Czech machine guns and even some Chinese hardware during his time on the front line 52

GAYS IN THE MILITARY James Brantley
Morality and ethics notwithstanding, President Clinton's pledge to lift the ban on homosexuals in the U.S. armed services poses an administrative and logistical nightmare 56

LIBERAL PRESS CORPS CHAMPIONS ISSUE IT DOESN'T UNDERSTAND Col. David Hackworth
Most journalists favor lifting ban on gays in the military: Proof positive our mainstream media doesn't understand the difference between military readiness and political correctness 61

BOMBING FOR BAMBI James McQuaid
The radical Animal Liberation Front has imported its Euro-terror tactics to America: Several major medical research labs have been hit. One such raid, at Michigan State University, destroyed over 30 years of work 62



SOF Team — page 36

Photo: Robert K. Brown



COVER

U.S. Marines forcefully subdue Somali gunman during raid on portside compound in Mogadishu. SOF's correspondent Dale B. Cooper spent three weeks on the ground with U.S. troops in Somalia. His story begins on page 30.
Photo: John Gaps III/Wide World

BULLETIN BOARD



The story of Alexander Zuyev, former Soviet Top Gun who escaped in a MiG-29, has been published by Warner Books, and it is not merely the thrilling escape story of a man disillusioned with the communist system. *Fulcrum* is an important document teeming with firsthand insight on topics of major historical importance to the Cold War; matters such as why Flight 007 really was shot down, and that U.S. pilots downed over North Vietnam were transported to the Soviet Union for intelligence stripping ... and disposal ... and more. Co-author Malcolm McConnell has made this book an easy read, but Zuyev's insight and candor make it impossible to put down. Zuyev was a featured guest speaker at the 1991 SOF Convention in Las Vegas, shown here with Lynda Carter look-alike. We regret we don't know where she came from, but suspect she may have been issued with Zuyev's Tailhook Association hat. Photo: David Bjorkman, National News Service

"LOOKS LIKE AMERICA" ... SMELLS LIKE RUSSIA ...

When then President-elect Clinton announced his laudable effort to staff an administration that "looks like America," we assumed he was announcing an intent to draw appropriate talent from throughout our rich American potpourri of races — not to glean the entire political spectrum and select flaming red Marxists and unfeigned allies of America's enemies.

We do not know if one particular selection for his transition team came as the result of taking bad advice — in which case he should watch his advisers — or if it was his own selection — in which case we should

watch our president — but we have to take issue with the selection of Dr. Johnetta Cole as the head of the Clinton transition team's "educational cluster."

In an election where the candidate expressed hope of including a representative cross section of women and minorities in his future administration, Dr. Cole would appear to be a logical choice, as she is both a woman and a minority. And since the political Left has won its first presidential election in a while, it is to be expected to include left-of-center people in the administration.

But there are certain benchmarks, minimum standards if you will, that we feel are appropriate for anyone who is to be part of any administration. For instance, opposition to all forms of totalitarianism, i.e., believing in democracy, would seem to us to be a pretty basic quality for anyone who would serve a freedom-loving people.

Throughout the 1970s and '80s, Dr. Cole maintained close ties with the American communist movement, and there is no evidence she has experienced an ideological change of heart. According to documents discovered by U.S. troops in Grenada, Cole and her colleagues in the "U.S.-Grenada Friendship Society" spent a lot of time stewing about the possibility of "Trots" infiltrating their commie group (fear of Trotskyites has always been a favorite paranoia of old-school communists).

Dr. Cole long played a leadership role in the pro-Castro Venceremos Brigade, which was jointly controlled by the Communist Party USA (CPUSA) and Havana. She was a founding sponsor of the U.S. "Peace" Council — a major CPUSA front — and too many CPUSA-dominated groups to list here. She backed Cuban intervention in Angola in 1976, and has indulged in hagiography of Saint Fidel on many occasions. One hopeful essay she authored was entitled, *If It Happened In Cuba, Then Why Not Here?* Cole believes American blacks should "stand in solidarity with the Cuban revolution." The only thing that might be in Dr. Cole's favor is that she has never made an attempt to hide her sympathy for communism and communists.

The atrocities of Fidel's communist

Cuba have never bothered Cole, nor have the horrors of Vietnam's postwar re-education camps: When a group of former anti-war activists joined Joan Baez in running an ad in *The New York Times* to denounce Vietnam for holding thousands of political prisoners, Cole and a handful of CPUSA honchos published a counter-ad in the form of an open letter to Joan Baez:

In this open letter, Cole and her co-signers (Carl Bloice of *People's Daily World*, Mike Myerson of CPUSA's National Committee, CPUSA candidates Angela Davis and Charlene Mitchell, etc.) claimed "Vietnam now enjoys human rights as it has never known in history."

In regards to the Vietnamese political prisoners, they acknowledged that "some 400,000 servants of the former barbaric regime were sent to re-education camps," and asked pointedly, "Should they not be re-educated?" But, you may say, she was only referring to sending

SOF writers make it a point to cover not only the news, but report the reportage by other media. Sometimes that's not altogether unpleasant. Although some mainstream media fail to go to where the action is, here's a reporter at 29 Palms who's going to get her story right from the source, as Marines were gearing up for Operation Restore Hope.

Photo: Robert Walchli





PALADIN PRESS

RANDALL MADE KNIVES

The History of the Man and the Blades

by Robert L. Gaddis

Randall Made Knives is the authorized history of Bo Randall and his blades, told in his own words and those of the people who knew him best - his family, his co-workers, his friends and his customers. Compiled through meticulous research that included correspondence, original sketches, catalogs, purchase orders, personal interviews and rare photographs (including one never-before-seen photo of Bo's very first knife), this book spans the years from 1936 when Bo took up knifemaking as a hobby, through World War II when U.S. GIs discovered his fighting knives, to the present where his son, Gary, carries on the tradition. Find out the stories behind each of Bo's knives, including his all-time best-sellers, the Fighter and the Stiletto; the knife that orbited the Earth and landed in the Smithsonian, the Astro; his bowies; and the one in the Metropolitan Museum of Modern Art, the Pro-Thrower. Destined to become the historical reference on Bo Randall and Randall Made Knives for collectors, knifemakers and historians. 8 1/2 x 11, hardcover, photos, illus., 304 pp. **\$50.00**



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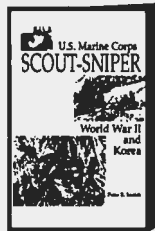
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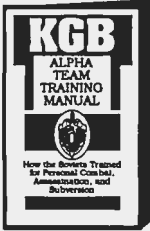
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Foreword by Evan P. Marshall
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Preface by Jim Shortt
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barbarians to re-education camps.

In a 1984 tribute to CPUSA theoretical wallah Herb Aptheker, Dr. Cole stated that "of all human barbarities, the least bearable is the absurd [and] Reaganism is absurd."

Fellow members of the loyal opposition, if this person is in charge of Clinton's transition team "education cluster," you'd better start packing your bags for the re-education camps.

TOP CUBANS INVESTIGATED ...

Federal officials in Miami have confirmed that top Cuban officials including Fidel Castro's brother Raul (who as minister of the Revolutionary armed forces controls Cuba's airports and ocean travel) are targets of renewed U.S. drug-trafficking investigations. Tom Cash, chief of the Miami office of the Drug Enforcement Administration, stated, "There have been a series of ongoing investigations ... the record is replete with names ranging from military officers to high governmental officials in Cuba." He noted that Raul Castro has been mentioned repeatedly.

IRAN'S SUDANESE SURROGATE...

As many as 12,000 Iranians, most of them Revolutionary Guards, are in Sudan. Egypt in particular is worried at the prospect of Sudan allowing Iran

to establish a military stronghold, and to allow its territory to be used for training terrorists. Sudan is strategically located — it borders on eight North African nations — as a springboard for Iran to extend its influence into Africa.

Iranian arms shipments began in August 1991, when 1,000 tons of small arms and ammunition from Iran were delivered to Sudan in addition to Chinese-made arms, F-6 aircraft and ammunition.

Under military agreements between Iran and Sudan, Iran will pay for Sudan's purchase of Chinese and North Korean weapons, and Iran will supply oil and interest-free loans to Sudan. In exchange, Iran gets rights to Port Sudan for military and civilian purposes for 25 years, with an option to renew for an additional 15 years.

The Sudanese Bashir government has also been obtaining weapons from Libya — recently trading Khadafi 50,000 tons of sorghum valued at \$4 million ... while at the same time requesting 133,000 tons of grain from international aid organizations.

Sudan is reportedly establishing training camps for radical Palestinians and other militants forced to leave Libya or Syrian-controlled Lebanon.

Both Western and Middle Eastern diplomats in Sudan are convinced that Abu Nidal, one of the most notorious international terrorists, is operating in Sudan. Said one Western diplomat, "Sudan has become the safe haven of choice for terrorists."

PC = PERSONAL COMPUTER, OR POLITICALLY CORRECT?

James Brantley, author of "Dereliction Of Duty" in the January '93 *SOF*, and author of "Gays In The Military" on page 56 of this issue, reports that Navy Commander Frank Dooling, the operator of GENIE's Military Roundtable, banned Brantley from the Roundtable shortly after release of the January '93 *SOF*. Dooling was mentioned in Brantley's article for having deleted the topic on women in combat, and forbidding further discussion of that topic.

Although Commander Dooling said he banned Brantley for a "blatant violation of policy and the intimidating nature of a statement to a Military Roundtable staff member," we learned that Brantley's "blatant violation of policy" had been asking someone "if the military considered Clinton a yellow-bellied draft dodger." The question was censored and Brantley was told "it had been removed 'due to the inflammatory

It's called the USPTM (Universal Self-loading Pistol).

It's coming in 1993.

It's worth the wait.



In a world of compromise, some don't.

language used towards certain elected officials." Shades of Mother Russia! Brantley was posing a question!

When Brantley protested this abuse, saying he would take the issue to GENIE management, Dooling called that protest "intimidation."

We did note that there were inflammatory comments about political figures all over the Military Roundtable that Dooling did not seem to find offensive. And a few days before Brantley's Clinton question, a subscriber had remarked that anyone who was opposed to gays in the military was a bigot, jerk, or had sexual identity problems. Such comments were clear violations of GENIE's rules and this was pointed out to the Roundtable staff, but not only did Dooling find those comments acceptable, one of his staff posted comments defending them.

This would make it pretty clear that it was something other than "rule violations" that led to Brantley's lockout.

The Navy has had a serious public relations problem in the wake of Tailhook and other scandals. You'd think the last thing they need is a naval officer on a major computer service censoring comments, telling the public what they can and can't

discuss, and blackballing authors he decides are politically incorrect. *SOF* is of the opinion free speech was just dealt one devastating blow (see "Command Guidance" in this issue); with efforts to censor the computer networks, what's next, licensing soapboxes?

TRACKING DOWN A VETERAN ...

Some 410,000 living veterans (to include name, address, phone, units/ranks/awards/time of service) are listed in the computer banks of the American Foreign Conflicts Electronic Library and Veteran Locator, in Lomita, California, accessible on a

24-hour basis by anyone with a modern-equipped personal computer. Collecting an average of 200 to 300 new names every day, the system also lists 4,000 military associations, 80,000 people KIA, 1,200 war correspondents, 2,750 MIA and 14,000 active-duty personnel. The Library/Locator is located at 25601 Narbonne Ave., Suite 6, Lomita, CA 90717; phone: 310-530-0177 or 310-373-9792.

REUNIONS ...

L.S.M. National Association, 21-25 Aug 93 @ Charleston, SC. POC: Richard S. Schatz (413) 774-2397.

USS Guadalcanal CVE-60 Task Force 22.3 Association (USS Pillsbury, Pope, Flaherty, Chatelain & Jenks), June 93 @ Pensacola, FL. POC: Jack S. Dutton (314) 522-3975.

National Association of Fleet Tug Sailors (Navy, USCG, from vessels classed ATF, ARS, ASR, ATA, ATO, ATR, ATS and all YT class), 23-26 Sept 93 @ Virginia Beach, VA. POC: George Kingston (205) 962-2171.



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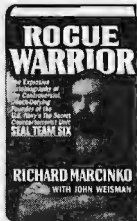
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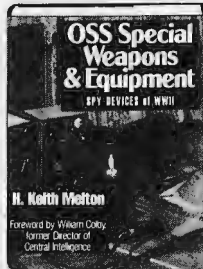
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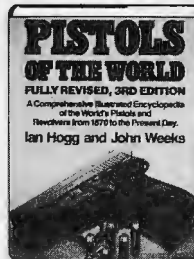
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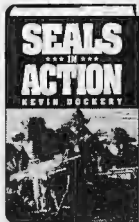
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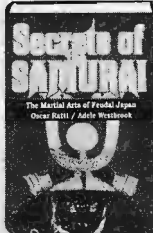
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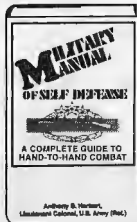
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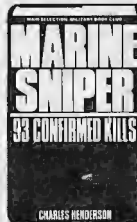
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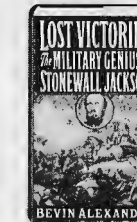
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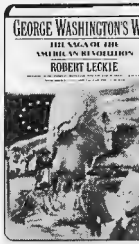
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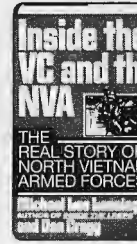
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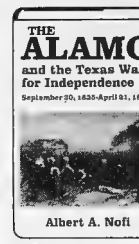
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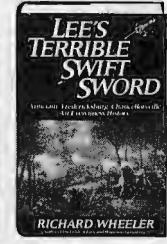
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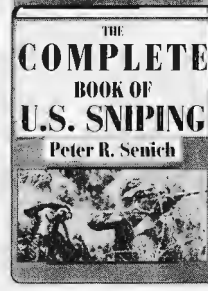
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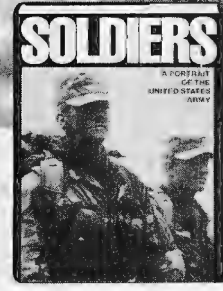
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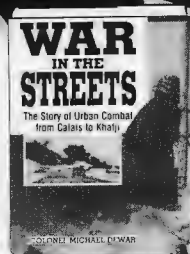
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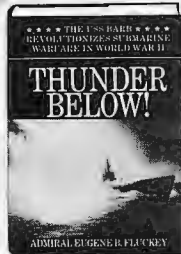
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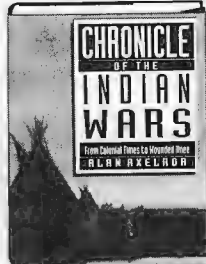
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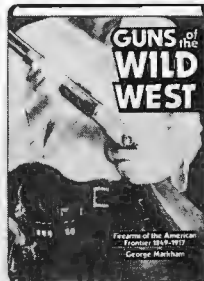
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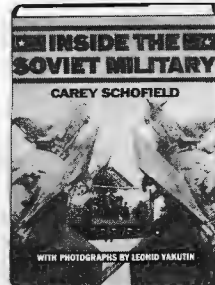
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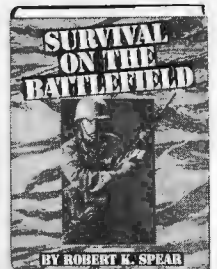
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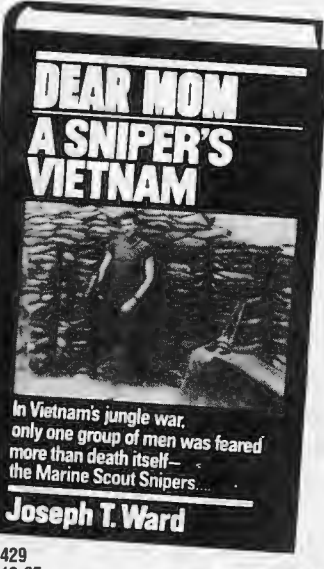
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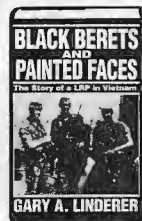
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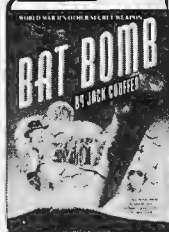
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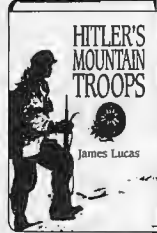
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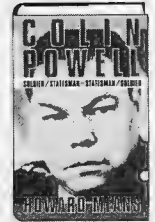
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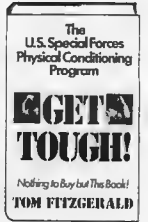
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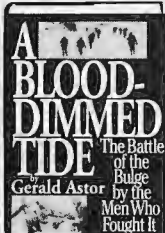
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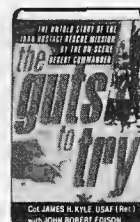
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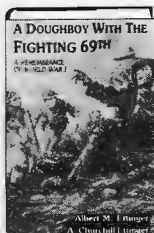
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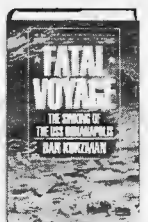
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Text & Photo by Peter G. Kokalis

Building a Better Bullet Hose



Add a properly designed shoulder stock to the MP5K's equation and your hit probability will rise asymptotically. S&H Arms Manufacturing Co. created this duplicate of the H&K MP5K-PDW, and it's a "non-restricted transfer" machine gun.

Heckler & Koch's MP5 submachine gun, in all its various forms, is the undisputed choice of the vast majority of law enforcement Special Response teams and military Special Ops units throughout the non-communist world. It has been so for almost two decades.

These organizations are presented with no problems, excepting budgetary matters, in obtaining any of the MP5 series of weapons they desire. Access to U.S. civilians, however, has always been severely restricted by both federal regulations and by Heckler & Koch. MP5s were not imported to the United States until the early 1970s — well after the infamous Gun Control Act of 1968 — and thus few, if any, are available as "non-restricted transfer" Title II firearms. Most of those on the NFA (National Firearms Act of 1934) registry are so-called "Pre May 19, 1986" dealers' samples and can be transferred only to Class 3 dealers (although without the requirement of a police letter and with the proviso that they can be retained as chattel property after the dealer gives up his license).

Individuals can possess MP5-type submachine guns that were made by Class 2 manufacturers from HK94 semiautomatic-only carbines prior to 19 May 1986. In some instances these HK94 conversions were so carefully constructed as to defy detection. It is no longer permissible to alter the receiver of a semiautomatic-only firearm for conversion to full auto (except to create a "Post May 19, 1986" dealers' sample which cannot be transferred to an individual and only to a Class 3 dealer who can provide a legitimate letter from a law enforcement agency indicating the need for a demonstration of the item). However,

a substantial number of H&K "machine gun auto sears" were registered by Class 2 manufacturers just prior to the 19 May 1986 deadline. They can be legally installed in firearms, providing the weapon's receiver is not modified to accommodate this installation (as this would be creating a new machine gun, according to the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms, or BATF).

There are a number of Class 2 manufacturers who install auto sears and alter HK94s to more or less conform to the MP5 configuration. One of the very best is Tom Seslar of S&H Arms Manufacturing Co. (Dept. SOF, Route 3, Box 689, Berryville, AR 72616; phone: 800-462-6109). *Soldier Of Fortune* recently performed an extensive test and evaluation on one of Seslar's most interesting creations — an almost exact external duplicate of the H&K MP5K-PDW (Personal Defense Weapon). This compact 9mm Parabellum submachine gun is ideally suited for military aircrew escape/evasion use or for law-enforcement dynamic entry applications.

The original MP5K was introduced in 1976. Designed for clandestine operations, the barrel was shortened from 8.85 inches (standard for the MP5 A series) to only 4.5 inches. The tubular extension above the barrel was also shortened. A vertical foregrip behind a vertical safety projection was added and the bolt carrier shortened. There is usually no buttstock, only a receiver cap.

The recently introduced MP5K-PDW combines the MP5K with a side-folding synthetic stock designed (oddly enough, it was originally intended for the caliber 7.62x51mm NATO HK91/

G3) by Garth Choate (Choate Machine & Tool Company Inc., Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 218, Bald Knob, AR 72010; phone: 501-724-6193), which has been fitted to the MP5K endcap, together with a slightly extended barrel (5.815 inches) that has been threaded for a muzzle-type sound suppressor and includes the three mounting lugs (for the flash hider, BFA or grenade launcher).

Seslar starts with an H&K SP89 semiauto pistol, provided by the customer to avoid additional federal excise tax. The marking "SP89" on top of the receiver is covered over by TIG-welding, then ground flush and re-stamped "MP5 K."

The barrel is replaced with one 5.815 inches in length — turned, milled with the three mounting lugs and threaded for a sound suppressor — from E.R. Shaw 9mm match-grade barrel blanks. These barrels, manufactured from 4140 re-sulfurized steel, are provided as 18-inch-long blanks with 1-inch diameters. Muzzle threads are available in two sizes: 1/2x32 (used by the U.S. Navy) or 1/2x28 (M16 muzzle thread size). I prefer the latter size as it will accommodate most of the 9mm muzzle-type sound suppressors made by AWC Systems Technology and others over the past decade. Both are equipped with knurled protective caps.

A registered H&K machine-gun auto sear is then installed in the SP89 trigger mechanism and the entire trigger module is placed into an H&K-produced "SEF" trigger housing using the "SEF" selector lever. The front of the trigger housing is milled to fit onto the semiautomatic SP89 frame. Since the front "push pin" trigger housing installation found on all H&K selective-fire weapons is not permitted by BATF

regulations, for cosmetic purposes the head of an H&K push pin has been fastened with epoxy into the pin hole on each side of the trigger housing.

Seslar then drills a blind hole in the lug area of the receiver (in back of the bottom of the magazine-well) and mills enough clearance to accept an H&K paddle-type magazine catch/release with a bushing pressed into it. These components are placed over an axis pin installed in the blind hole and TIG-welded in place. This is a BATF-approved modification to the magazine-well only. The SP89 bolt carrier is built up to the correct MP5K dimensions by TIG-welding with Stellite.

Finally, all the metal components that have been altered are manganese phosphate-finished. The external parts, with the exception of the end of the barrel, are then given a black epoxy baked-on paint finish.

The final result weighs 6.5 pounds, empty and without magazine. Overall length with the stock extended is 23.5 inches. With the stock folded, the length of the weapon is only 14.5 inches.

The MP5K-PDW can be fired with the stock folded, but why anyone would want to do so I don't know. I have never had a high regard for the MP5K. Its shorter, and therefore lighter, bolt carrier and its shorter length of travel in the reduced-envelope receiver body

generate a cyclic rate of about 900 rpm. When you combine this cyclic rate with the lack of a shoulder mount, you are guaranteed a low level of hit probability. All MP5 bolt carriers, even for the K model, contain 32.5 grams of tungsten granules. However, this added weight was inserted as an anti-bounce device and not to reduce the cyclic rate.

Add a properly designed shoulder stock to the MP5K's equation and hit probability suddenly rises asymptotically, even though the cyclic rate jumps to approximately 1,300 rpm. When the MP5K is fired without a shoulder mount, the receiver will move rearward slightly as the reciprocating parts travel back during the recoil stroke. This, in effect, buffers the moving parts and holds down the cyclic rate. When mounted to the shoulder, the MP5K-PDW's receiver stays stationary, permitting the bolt group to slam more sharply against the endcap and rebound with greater acceleration.

We measured the MP5K-PDW's cyclic rate with the new PACT MKIV Championship Timer/Chronograph and its integral machine-gun cyclic-rate counter (Practical Applied Computer Technology Inc., Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 531525, Grand Prairie, TX 75053; phone: 800-722-8462). Even at 1,300 rpm, experienced operators can fire

consistent three-shot bursts with low group dispersion at the ranges a weapon of this type will be employed.

You can drop the MP5K-PDW's cyclic rate by another 100 rpm if you substitute the MP5K/SP89 locking piece (marked "16") with the MP5A series/HK94 locking piece (no markings). In each instance the locking surface angle differs. Due to the shorter barrel of the MP5K, less time is available before locking must occur and therefore the locking surface angle is closer to perpendicular to the bore's axis and easier to unlock — the MP5A series' locking surface is closer to being parallel to the bore's axis and thus requires greater force to unlock. Heckler & Koch does not recommend this substitution, claiming it may marginally affect reliability under adverse conditions.

The MP5K's rear sight is of the rotary type associated with the H&K system in general, except that instead of peep apertures (as found on the MP5A series) there are four open square notches, of widths varying from 2.5mm to 5mm. Rotation of the rear sight will bring into view the different square notches only. Elevation remains constant. I don't like the MP5K rear sight and I installed an MP5A series' peep aperture sight on our test MP5K-PDW. At normal submachine-gun

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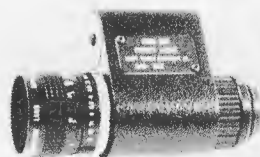


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Self-luminous tritium front- and rear-sight inserts can be obtained from Innovative Weaponry Inc. (Dept. SOF, 337 Eubank N.E., Albuquerque, NM 87123; phone: 1-800-334-3573). They have been installed on all of my MP5 submachine guns.

While not standard, Seslar can install sling swivels on the MP5K-PDW. Heckler & Koch has also just introduced a new combat-carry web sling featuring Velcro-type adjustment that can be installed on the MP5K-PDW by substituting special sling pins for the forearm and for the upper folding-buttstock retaining pins. When the customer provides the SP89, the complete cost of the S&H Arms MP5K-PDW is \$1,425. Both cosmetically and operationally, this is just about as close as most of us will ever get to owning an MP5K-PDW. S&H Arms can also provide submachine guns that duplicate the MP5A series, working with customer-provided HK94s.

We fired a wide range of 9mm Parabellum ammunition through our MP5K-PDW test specimen, from Winchester and Federal generic brands through U.S. Navy-contract IMI ball (headstamped "9mm TZZ 87"); there were no stoppages. Heckler & Koch recommends against the use of both the Navy-contract IMI ball (commercially known as "carbine" ammo and marked with a black tip) and Canadian military ball. Both were designed for use in open-bolt, unlocked blowback submachine guns — the UZI and the C1 (a slightly modified version of the British Sterling) submachine guns, respectively.

Adding a well-designed shoulder stock to the MP5K transforms it from an almost worthless bullet hose to a compact burp gun with satisfactory hit probability. ☒

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1

Tadzhikistan

Country's communist government launches offensive against Islamic fundamentalist and democratic factions that it had previously driven out of the capital of Dushanbe. Thousands of refugees flee toward border with Afghanistan. Fundamentalists and democrats had driven communists from power in coup last year, but proved unable to resist government counterattack. Divisions reflect clan rivalries as well as ideology ...

2

South Africa

More than 1,000 Boer pro-apartheid hard-liners abandon farms in South Africa to settle in black-governed Zambia, whose government has invited them to immigrate as part of an attempt to spur country's development following ouster of Marxist President Kenneth Kaunda. Boers expect more social unrest in South Africa and view Zambia as relatively stable ...

5

China

2,000 police conduct 80-day operation in Yunnan province intended to seize territory held by a drug lord. Sweep resulted in 854 arrests, eight of whom were condemned. Two suspects were killed in offensive ...

Documents smuggled out of country by writer and pro-democracy activist Zheng Yi show Red Guards in Guangxi Zhuang region engaged in ritual cannibalism during Cultural Revolution in the 1960s. Documents show at least 137 people were killed in such rituals and suggest thousands of people ate some of victims' flesh ...

6

Iraq

Following series of cease-fire violations, U.S. and Coalition allies stage several punitive raids on Iraqi air defense installations in southern "no-fly" zone and hit military targets in Baghdad. Iraqi violations that elicited raids included moving SAM batteries into the zone, attempting to limit mobility of U.N. weapons inspectors, planting explosives in Kurdish relief convoys, and dogfight with U.S. aircraft, which resulted in at least three Iraqi warbirds being shot down ...

Seven Iraqi nuclear scientists are reported executed for protesting the assassination in Jordan of another Iraqi physicist by Saddam Hussein's agents. Iraqi authorities are believed to have feared the condemned men were planning to defect ...

9

United States

Government is attempting to deport Omar Abdel-Rahman, blind Egyptian cleric who issued the *fatwa* (Islamic sanction) for the 1981 assassination of Anwar Sadat. Abdel-Rahman, presently living in Brooklyn, New York, entered the country in 1990 on strength of a tourist visa mistakenly issued by U.S. Embassy in Khartoum. Because he faces charges in Egypt, he is expected to petition the Great Satan for political asylum ...

10

Libya

Official government newspaper *Al-Jamahirliya* urges Libyans to resume supporting the Irish Republican Army ...

13

Colombia

Jairo Posada Valencia, suspected chief of Medellin Cartel's terrorist branch, is arrested following a car-bomb campaign in Medellin that kills 20 ...

Multiple guerrilla attacks on Colombian oil production and transport installations cost country's economy roughly \$150 million in lost production ...

13

3

14

Madagascar

Little-noticed U.N. relief operations mounted by the international body's World Food Program is reported to have kept at least 1 million people from starving from prolonged drought. Program has bypassed Madagascar government paralyzed by months of civil unrest, and gone directly to the people ...

17

Mozambique

President Joaquim Chissano says elections planned for October 1993 may have to be delayed due to slow pace of implementation of peace accords. Fighting between government and RENAMO guerrillas has ceased, but demobilizing the two fighting forces as called for by agreement has lagged ...

3

Peru

Attack by guerrillas of the Cuban-backed Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (country's "other" insurgency) on northeastern city of Moyobamba leaves 10 guerrillas, 8 government troops, and one civilian dead ...

4

Angola

Heavy fighting and bombing raids by government aircraft leave hundreds dead and extensive battle damage in Huambo following resumption of full-scale civil war with Jonas Savimbi's UNITA forces. Savimbi had used Huambo as headquarters until government troops fought their way into city ...

7

Russia

Government approves massive program of nuclear power-plant construction. Program, which ends moratorium put in place at time of 1986 Chernobyl disaster, contemplates construction of at least 30 new power stations. Program may reflect decision to launch infrastructure program in order to stimulate Russian economy, and may also reflect belief that no outside market exists for plutonium from nuclear weapons scheduled to be decommissioned under arms reduction treaties with United States ...

8

Thailand

Complying with U.N. Security Council sanctions, government closes border with Cambodia and bans trade in timber and oil with Khmer Rouge. Purpose of sanctions is to force Khmer Rouge to comply with Cambodian peace accords, which require disarmament ...

7

11

1

12

North Korea

China ends three-decade-old barter trade with North Koreans and demands hard currency be used in future deals. Move follows establishment last August of diplomatic and economic relations between China and South Korea ...

10

6

15

5

18

11

Germany

Citing shortage of border police, German government plans to use radar and infrared detection systems as part of effort to prevent refugees from entering country ...

8

16

16

Zaire

Fighting intensifies near Ugandan border, where Congo Liberation Party guerrillas have been waging bush war against government of Zairean President Mobutu Sese Seko since 1985 ...

4

17

14

2

15

Iran

President Hashemi Rafsanjani warns Gulf Arabs they will have "to cross a sea of blood" if they attempt to reclaim the disputed island of Abu Musa in the Strait of Hormuz ...

18

India

Six members of the outlawed National Liberation Front of Tripura kidnapped six members of their own organization and buried them alive for extorting food from poor villagers. Extortion violates organization's code of conduct. Incident occurred in the town of Kalachari in South Tripura district, 930 miles east of New Delhi. At least two separatist groups have been fighting a guerrilla war in region ...

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FEMALE SELF DEFENSE: Free Kubaton included with event, certificate of completion, qualified martial arts instructions. Protect yourself.

COMBAT KNIFE FIGHTING: Featuring Al Mars Warrior Knife, included in event fee. Limited registration.

RAPPELLING: Learn this fast-growing exciting sport. Basic rappelling, Australian tie-off. The course will be conducted in the convention center.

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WORLD FAMOUS 3-GUN MATCH

STATIC LINE PARACHUTE JUMP COURSE: Information to come.

♦ *And more to be announced*

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- ♦ 20 Names will be drawn from the first 500 Conventioneers. Winners join Robert K. Brown for Brunch.

♦ *Dedicated to the memory of Al Mar – A departed warrior, but not forgotten.*

FLAK

DERELICTION OF LOGIC?

James Brantley's feature "Dereliction Of Duty" [*SOF*, Jan. '93] makes a lot of good points and I have a tough time arguing against his concerns about females serving in infantry units, because the physical requirements are simply too much. But his reasoning is flawed or incomplete.

I am writing my seventh military aviation novel, which among other things deals with women in combat, specifically women combat aircrew members. I have spent a lot of time discussing the topic with a great many people, and along with my own observations as an Air Force veteran, I have concluded that, with a few exceptions, *women who choose not to be child-bearers* can play a useful and significant role in the U.S. military. They can't do every job, but they can be great soldiers if they are allowed to be. Sure, you can find whiners, weaklings, cowards, buttheads, idiots and malingerers in every combat unit in the world — these are not traits that belong only to women, as Brantley seems to suggest.

Brantley, as do a lot of other authors on this topic, likes to point out the high rates of homosexuality in female military units. I don't advocate having blatant homosexuals, male or female, in the military or anywhere else — but neither do I advocate having psychopathic, paranoid, sadistic, brutal, ignorant, racist, bigoted, perverted or maniacal

persons in the military. But if every person who fell in one of these categories left the military, how many soldiers would we have left?

Brantley laments the fact that women don't have as stringent physical fitness requirements as men. Physical fitness standards were designed by men for men, and should not apply to women. Just because a woman can't carry a case of artillery shells or can't carry a fire hose shouldn't mean that women shouldn't be allowed to serve in the Army or Navy. If she can't carry the damn hose up the damn ladder, get someone who can and put her to work at the helm or on the radio.

Sure, if I'm trapped in a burning cockpit, I want the biggest, brawniest guy out there to pull my ass out — I don't want a 100-pound woman who got the job by a quota system to do it. But I've done hundreds of aerial refuelings behind female crews, received hundreds of radar vectors by female controllers, been jacked-up by dozens of female sky cops and accepted hundreds of planes from female crew chiefs, so nobody can tell me women soldiers can't cut the mustard.

Dale Brown
Folsom, California

Jim Brantley replies: *I never suggested that women were buttheads, idiots or malingerers. Nor did I suggest women were weaklings — I presented*

test data to prove it. I mentioned cowardice in female soldiers because the numbers were significant when compared to the number of women that came under fire. Recruitment screening and observant NCOs eliminate the people with mental and attitude problems Mr. Brown seems to think the military has in large numbers.

Don't dismiss physical fitness requirements so lightly. Males are discharged from active duty for failure to maintain these requirements, even though they do fine on the female scale. Yes, you can find jobs military women can do. Someone in a wheelchair can sit at a radar scope. However, military jobs are called "specialties" because they are only one dimension of a soldier's duty. Soldiers must break down equipment, load it for shipment and reassemble it upon arrival. Tents must be assembled, latrines dug, and defensive positions prepared. Support troops act as an emergency pool to replace infantry losses. A military unit's effectiveness at all these tasks decreases as the number of females increases.

A captain doesn't have the luxury of sorting out the capable and incapable for damage control tasks when an Exocet missile slams into his ship wiping out one-third of his crew. Any sailor has to be capable of doing any damage control task, or the survivability of the ship is reduced. Injured sailors who have to rely on female shipmates to carry them to safety are going to die.

BRANTLEY ON THE MONEY

James Brantley's article "Dereliction Of Duty" hit the nail on the head. The critical need for muscular strength in operational units, constantly belittled by civil rights Nazis (most liberals) caused at least one medical unit to become non-operational in Europe. According to *U.S. News & World Report's* Oct. 1982 issue, one mobile field hospital was unable to set up due to the large number of women in the unit. The present policy of ignoring the physical limitation of women undermines morale and the integrity of the armed services. It is past time for the military to set a single physical standard for men and women.

Graham A. Bell
Manassas, Virginia



How would you feel if after four years of fighting World War II, you came home to find your wife was a chain-smoking alcoholic and had nightmares every night for years about the three guys she killed at Anzio. And every other young woman was the same way. That would really help society recover from a war. Let's face it once and for all, on a philosophical level, no matter how qualified a woman is to fight in a war, do we as a society want to let them, and do they really want to?

I know I'm gonna get blasted for this, but I'm gonna say it anyway, I think women should be the mothers, healers and peacemakers. The world is bad enough already with half the human population wanting to kill each other, let's not get the other half in uniform and psyched up to kill also; if that happens, we're really going to be in trouble.

Bill Johnson, USMC (Ret.)
Mountain View, California

I would like to thank you for publishing the truth about women in the military, something politicians and the "mainstream" press never do. Thanks.

I am so impressed by Brantley's article, I'd like to send a copy to every member of Congress and the producer of each so-called news program on TV. To do this, I'll need about 600 copies of the article. If you make reprints available, please send a price list. If you don't, I'd like to request copyright permission to print 600 copies for free distribution to news organizations and elected officials.

Steven Putt
Normal, Illinois

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reproduce and distribute copies of our articles, provided that the article is reproduced in its entirety, SOF is credited, and the distribution is for non-profit informational use only.

BAG THE USSR

Just a quick note. Isn't it about time the USSR disappeared from the World SitRep map?

Eugene Brenycz
Irvington, New Jersey

Since on a monthly basis you can't tell the countries without a scorecard in the "former Soviet Union," we've decided not to include the borders of the "independent republics" just yet.

SOF'S VOICE SILENCED?

I was disappointed to read about your legal predicament. In a deteriorating America where the government, time and time again, kisses the ass of the media, it was almost unbelievable. But I attribute the difference in treatment to the fact that your magazine speaks out.

SOF has a reputation for reporting about things and situations that many in the government would rather be forgotten. And what better way to force your silence than to force your bankruptcy.

In my opinion, your magazine could not have known about the possibility of these incidents. Your magazine did not cause the crime, nor should you be held responsible for the crime. In fact, you should be commended for your efforts to help the men and women who helped America in her defense.

I sincerely hope that your magazine will be able to continue reporting the truth about the American government and the world.

David Edwards
West Union, South Carolina

See this month's "Command Guidance" for an update on our legal situation.

NO SPECIAL RIGHTS FOR COPS

I completely disagree with Officer Huckabay's argument [SOF, Feb. '93 "FLAK"] that police officers should have special, out-of-jurisdiction, concealed-carry rights. This bonehead idea has only come up lately, as so many jurisdictions have gone berserk over firearms-carry in general. In days past, visiting or traveling police officers were given sort of a "free ride" out of professional courtesy; now they often run afoul of idiotic local bans.

The argument that they *might* run into past arrestees is pure eyewash — of the few dozen cops killed each year by acts of violence, virtually none are killed in revenge incidents.

My family on vacation deserves the same protection as a traveling cop's does — no more, no less.

By the way, am I the only ex-soldier who's aggravated by the increasing tendency of police departments to cover non-veteran officer's coffins with the U.S. flag? I don't expect to be buried wearing a badge I didn't earn, and non-veteran cops shouldn't be buried under a flag they didn't serve. No offense, guys, but your state or municipal flag is more appropriate.

MSgt. Gid L. White, USA (Ret.)
Fredericksburg, Virginia

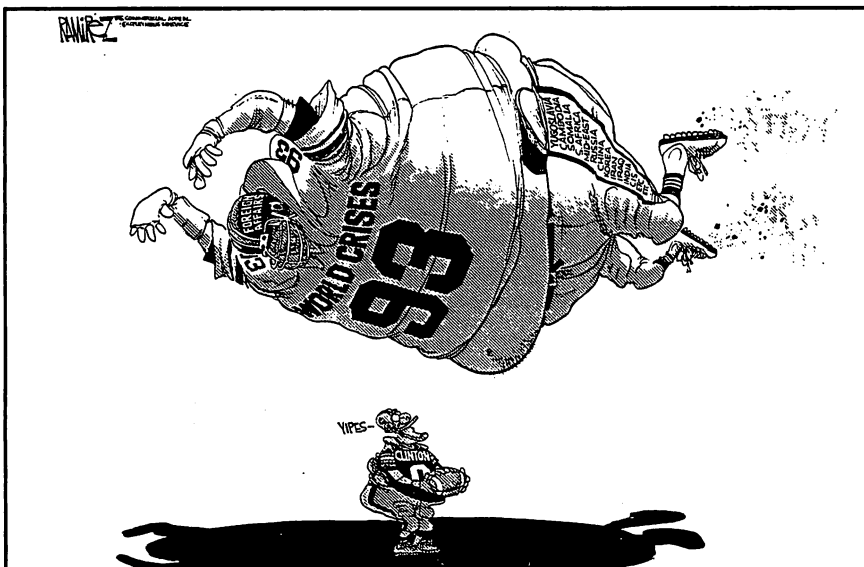
JUMPING MOTHER RUSSIA

I enjoyed reading Robert MacKenzie's article about the Russian (former Soviet) jump school ["SOF Jumps Mother Russia," Nov. '92]. Laying claim to being the first active-duty U.S. Army paratrooper to jump into Russian territory, and that only because I had the door position, I would like to add some comments.

I find the Russian D-6 canopy superior to the American T-10 series, not only because it can be turned without any forward drift, but also because its opening mechanism gives it HALO capabilities without the need for special HALO training. A major drawback of the D-6 is its harness. Similar to the T-10, it is a three-point harness, however, instead of quick releases it features regular snap hooks, which makes taking it off at wind speeds over 5 knots quite exciting.

Mackenzie got the name of the organization which sponsored the jump wrong. It's International Airborne Travel (IAT). Anyone interested in their future operations around the world may contact them at P.O. Box 71404, Fort Bragg, NC 28307.

Airborne All The Way!
Bernie Hasenbein
Fort Bragg, North Carolina

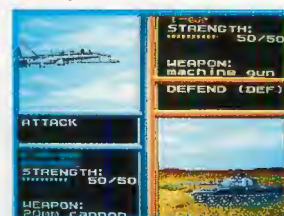
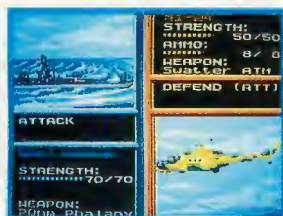


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LESSONS FROM THE CONVENTION

Having just returned from the SOF '92 convention I wanted to take a moment to tell you what I learned and saw.

1. Don't use a folding knife to stab an automobile tire, it will fold on you (if you were there you know what I mean — Ouch!!).

2. There's a great bunch of people who meet every year in the hot Nevada desert, and it doesn't matter where you're from or the color of your skin; if you believe in the fundamental right to keep and bear arms, you're welcome.

3. Sign up early.

A. Anthony
San Bruno, California

Lesson No. 4: Don't use a non-pointed knife like a Tanto to stab an automobile tire, either. It still hurts just thinkin' about it.

SEND IN THE CLOWNS

Can't say enough about your magazine, I really enjoy reading it. Woo-ah!

But where did you find the troops for the photo on page 55 of the January issue? I hope that if they were members of the Guard that someone in their chain of command had a heart-to-heart talk with them. It looks like one of those "What's Wrong With This Picture?" puzzles. Where did they get the "drive on" rags they are wearing? Is the one troop posing for a Gerber BMF knife advertisement? The matchbooks in the boonie hat was a neat touch, as were the sunglasses — issue? Where do I get my issue dingy gray T-shirt, or the one like "the Fonz" would wear modeled by The Hulk? Nice tattoo, too; I was really impressed.

Were any of these clowns above the rank of private? Wish you'd have visited us; staying in uniform was the order of the day for active-duty personnel. Appearance is part of leadership. Clowns like these don't represent the troops we have in the Guard or active-duty military and the next time such an operation occurs, I



offer you an invitation to accompany the active-duty public affairs officer or yours truly to see how things are. We'd have gladly provided you factual information and professional-looking/non-staged troops to photograph. All your photos lacked was the "Energizer" bunny!

Have an Airborne day!
Sgt. Maj. Richard E. Dunlap
82nd Airborne Div.

We shoot 'em like we see 'em. These guys needed no coaching. And though we appreciate the invite, Top, we try to avoid the PAO when looking for "non-staged troops to photograph." Sometimes the PAO tries to show you only what they want you to see. It's true.

U.S. ABANDONED POWs

In "Bulletin Board" under the heading "Trainloads of POWs from Korea to Siberia" [SOF, Feb. '93], the statement that Col. Phillip Corso made at a "November news conference" differs markedly with his testimony given under oath during the POW/MIA hearings that I witnessed on C-SPAN.

Corso's testimony was to the effect that it was President Eisenhower who decided that no effort would be made to resolve whether or not American POWs were transported from Manchuria to the USSR. After Corso stated this, Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.), in a hostile outburst, roared, "Eisenhower did that? Why?"

Corso stated that he believed Ike "feared a general [nuclear] war pitting the United States against North Korea, China and the USSR." This, I believe, was the most cogent testimony to come out of these hearings and lends credence to the "Helm's Report" that got them started in the first place. The bottom line is that it has been the policy of the United States to abandon its military men and citizens to the mercy of communist Russia ever since World War I.

This testimony given by Col. Corso is probably as close as we will ever get to the truth, because this cowardly policy has been carried out by all administrations, both Democratic and Republican, so it behooves both to keep the lid on it.

Edwin O. Learnard
San Diego, California

Our quote, as noted, was from a news conference held by Col. Corso, not from his congressional testimony; the source was a clipping from a New York newspaper column, Nation Briefs, sent in by one of our media watchers. The column said: A former White House aide said yesterday he advised President Dwight Eisenhower to establish a policy of declaring dead

American prisoners of war who were taken into Soviet custody. Phillip Corso, a retired colonel who was an aide to Eisenhower, told a news conference that in 1955 he recommended ... *The column goes on to quote Corso as quoting Ike: Eisenhower "said, 'I think you're right. I accept your recommendation,' "* Corso recalled.

We were unable to contact Col. Corso for clarification, so are unable to peg which quote or context is correct — but the point is the same: It was policy to consider downed American pilots and other POWs not worth the trouble their rescues might cause. We think that this abandonment of men and principle in favor of expediency is a national disgrace.

ADDING TO THE FRUIT SALAD

Reference your Dec. '92 article, "Salvo Advisers Win Recognition Battle — Lose War?" — I believe that the Army brass should give us a break. As an adviser myself, I'd like to see CIBs handed out and some Purple Hearts, etc., ... We went over there and put our asses on the line just like anyone else did in World War I, World War II, Korea or 'Nam.

It's not the ribbons and all that crap that counts, it's the point, and I believe the Army brass should get off its ass and make it right. I love this country and everything I've fought for, no regrets, but I'd like to have our sacrifices recognized.

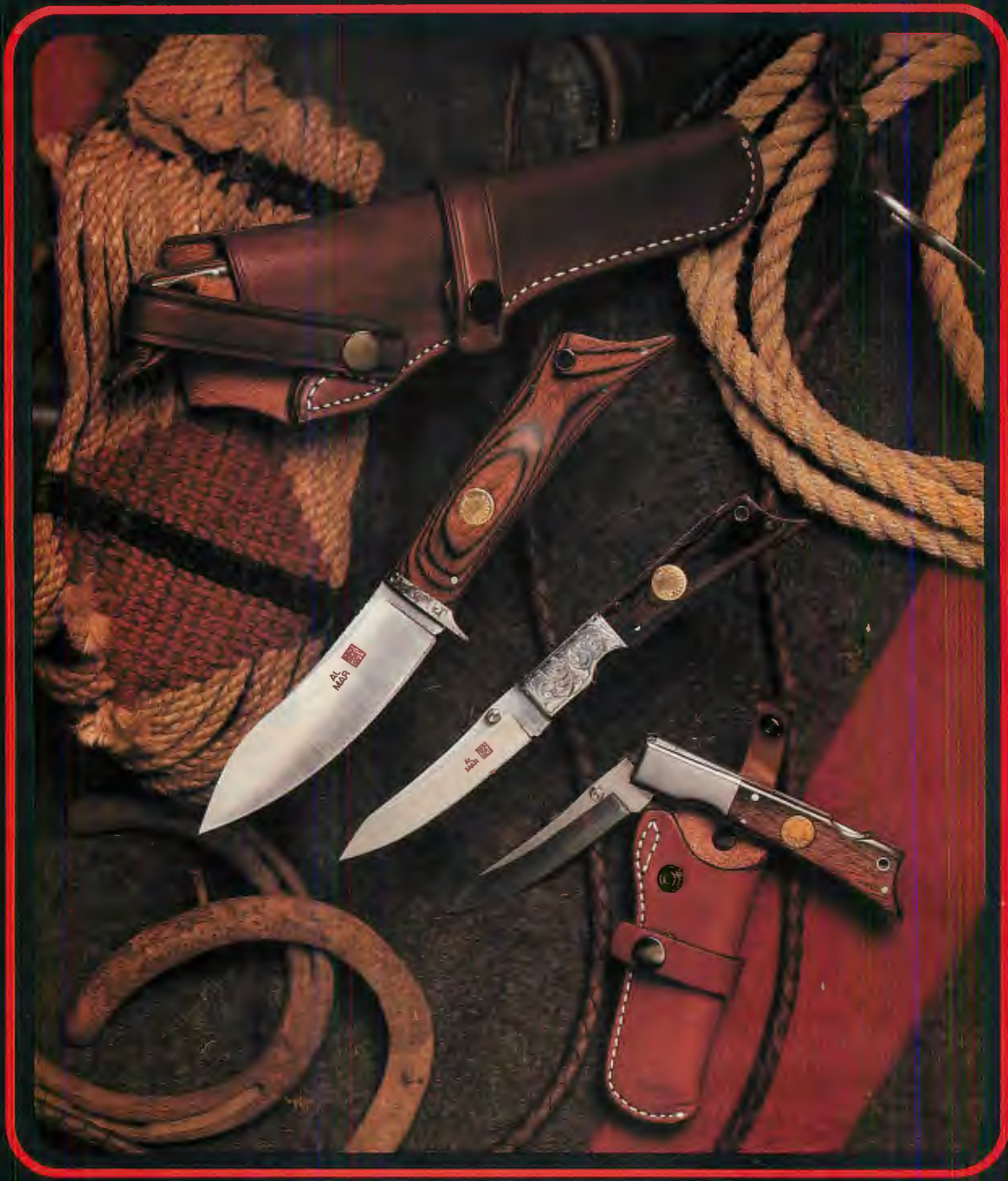
I already have a CIB but would like to get a star added. Maybe by the grace of God all of us advisers will receive our due and add to the ol' fruit salad.

Name and address withheld by request

The campaign for an Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal for U.S. military personnel who served as combat advisers in El Salvador is gathering steam. Greg Walker, SOF's "Battle Blades" Contributing Editor and honcho of a new organization, The Veterans of Special Operations, has been the prime mover. The Veterans of Foreign Wars has recently backed this campaign with its Resolution No. 427, and the VFW Director for National Legislative Affairs plans to work with Congress during 1993 on this matter.

Individuals can lend their support by writing their senators and representatives and asking them to prod the Department of Defense, and also by writing President Clinton asking him to use his authority as commander in chief to secure a formal decoration for U.S. veterans of Central America's longest war. For further information, Walker may be contacted at P.O. Box 6281, Bend, OR 97708.✕

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LAW LEATHER, NOW IN BALLISTIC NYLON

Pictured here are two new products from LAW Concealment Systems: the LCS II inside-the-pants holster in leather, carrying a GI model .45; and the LCSB (LG) in ballistic nylon, carrying a Model 29 Smith in .44 Magnum, each for less than \$50. Maximum concealment is afforded by carrying the weapon inside the pants, but the full holsters comfortably protect the weapon from sweat, snagging sights, and so on. Full information on the excellent line of holsters from LAW Concealment Systems is available from LCS, Dept. SOF, Box 3952, Wilmington, NC 28406; phone: 919-791-6656.



WATER WATCH

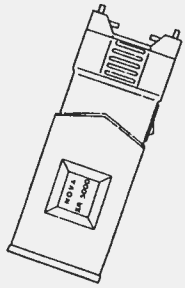
Here's a digital quartz watch that must be safe to wear in the rain: It's not only water-resistant to three atmospheres — but it *runs* on water. Coming in two styles and with a limited lifetime warranty, the "Wave" water watch is "fueled" by pouring tap water into it; a charge lasts a couple weeks or so, depending on ambient humidity — no winding, no batteries. Digital readout gives time, month and day: Distributor gives a 30-day free trial. Standard model has see-through case, costs \$24.94 plus \$3 handling/shipping or two for \$19.90 each — postpaid. Survival model comes with attractive camouflage case and built-in compass on band, and costs \$29.95 each plus \$3 shipping/handling, or \$24.94 each postpaid in lots of two or more. Get the scoop from: Daniel Heschke Imports, Dept. SOF, 126 Chestnut St., Medina, NY 14103; phone: 716-798-4324.



RELOADING ON A GRAND SCALE

For those of us who load everything from .25 ACP to 20mm Solothurn, the thought of one scale doing all the jobs — with accuracy — has been but a dream. But, leave it to Dillon Precision to come up with another "impossible" reloading gimcrack: The D-Terminator electronic scale that will measure up to 1,500 grains (95 grams) with accuracy to .01 gram or .1 grain. And in keeping with an outfit that has built a great business through high engineering but not high pricing, Dillon sells the D-Terminator for less than \$200. For more information, contact Dillon Precision Products, Dept. SOF, 7442 E. Butherus Drive, Scottsdale, AZ 85260; phone: 800-421-7632; ask for a free subscription to the *Blue Press*.

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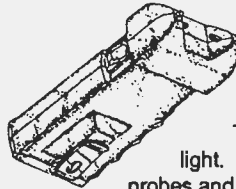
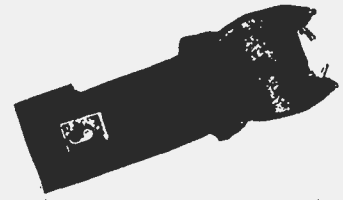
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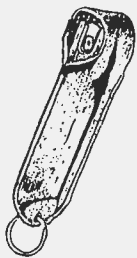


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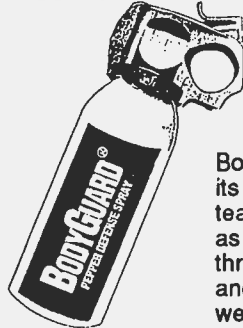
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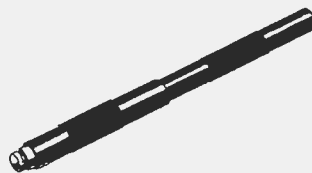
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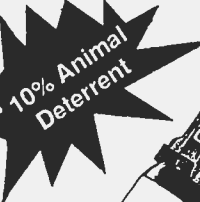
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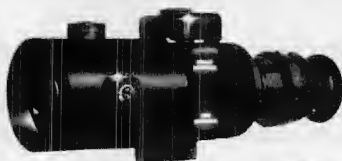


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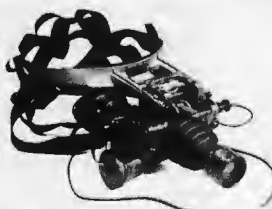
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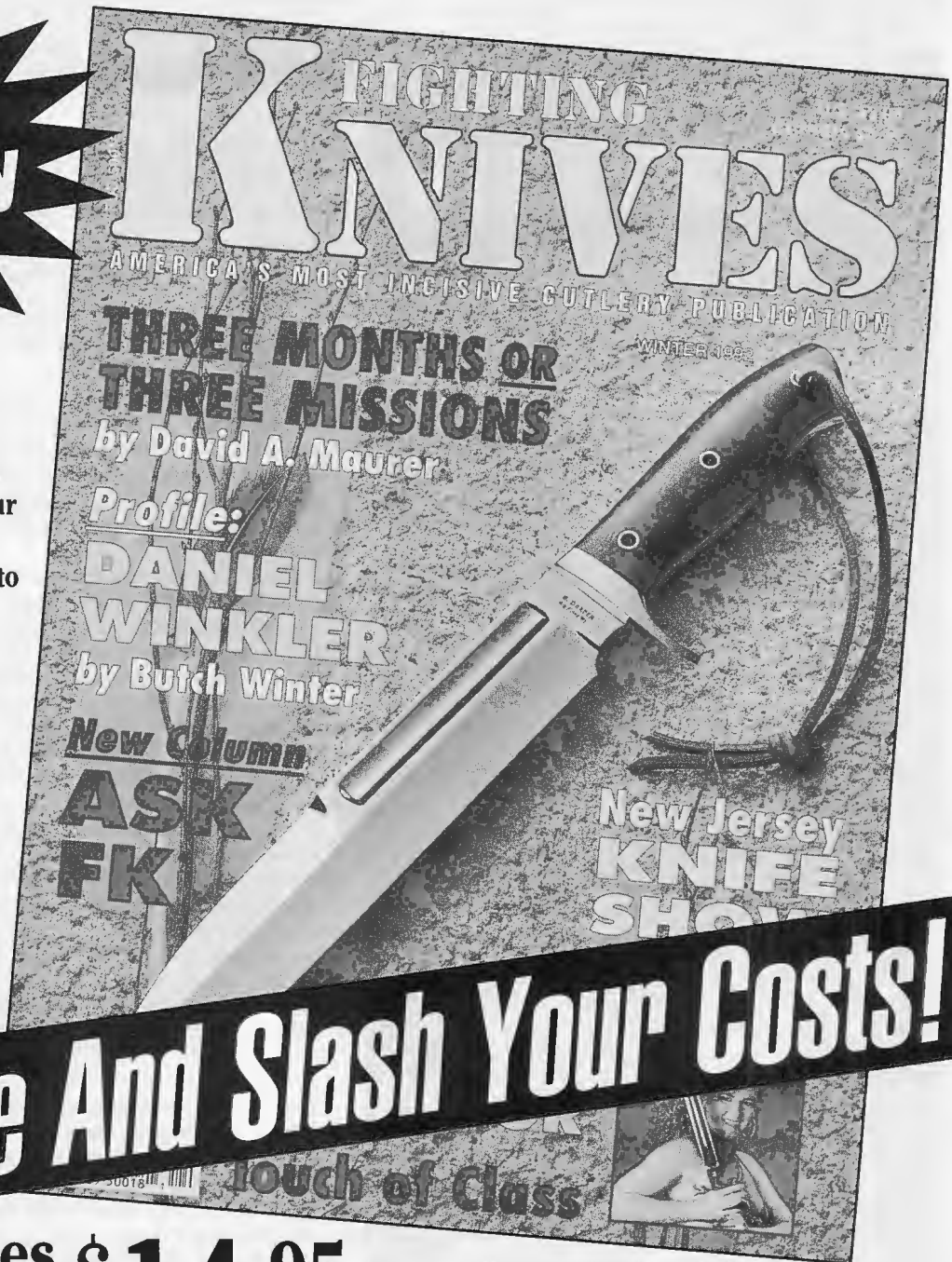
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REQUIEM FOR A WARRIOR

**Al Mar
1938-1992**



Staff Sgt. Al Mar was stationed with the 1st Special Forces Group (Airborne) on Okinawa; in the late 1950s he was part of a classified reconnaissance project. "Our teams were all Asian in composition," recalled Mar. "We ran [recon] missions along the Laotian-Vietnamese border and further north."
Photo: courtesy author

by Greg Walker

The kensei's "spirit" does not refer to some metaphysical entity but to the vitality of his actions, and to the quality of his inaction. His spirit is that sword which pierces the thin shell of the world, allowing him to fill the cosmos. His spirit is not really a possession at all but rather the force of the vital energy in which he both mobilizes and takes his repose.

— from *A Guide to the Way of the Warrior-Sage*

On 17 October 1992 Al Mar passed away. A staunch supporter of *Soldier Of Fortune* since our first issue, Mar had most recently attended the 13th Annual SOF Convention, where his presence and zest for life were felt by all who came in contact with him. A close friend and confidant of Editor/Publisher Robert K. Brown, Al was deeply concerned about the future of *SOF* and was committed to supporting the magazine as it faced its most important legal hurdle.

Alfred C. Mar Jr. was born on 9 August 1938. Throughout his formative years he displayed boundless energy and drive, setting goals for himself that he sought to accomplish regardless of challenges along the way. "I believe we can do or be anything we desire," he once told me. "But to do so you have to commit yourself to work, without shortcuts and without compromise."

Drawn toward industrial design, Al attended the Los Angeles Art Center from 1964 to 1965, where he earned a master's degree in that field. He was one of only a handful of cutlery designers to possess such an academic background, and he often gave credit to the Art Center for its high standards and emphasis on the work ethic.

Possessing a martial spirit, Al sought instruction in judo and in kendo (traditional Japanese sword fighting). By all accounts he was an accomplished practitioner, whose interest in the martial arts had recently seen him taking classes in *Kali*, one of the most challenging Philippine knife-fighting arts.

According to one of his kendo partners, Mar was something special where sword fighting was concerned: "He fought with the sword with the single-mindedness of one highly skilled in judo. When sparring, Al would lower his head and charge in, his sword held high and the force of his presence overwhelming. He fought with his total spirit."

Warrior

In the late 1950s Al Mar was proudly wearing his country's uniform. His warrior's ethos demanded service to his homeland and, characteristically, Al chose the most difficult course of action where soldiering was concerned. Wearing the green beret of the U.S. Army's Special Forces would have a profound and lasting impact on the young Chinese-American. For the rest of his life Mar would honor his comrades in arms, becoming a life member of both the Special Forces Association and the Special Operations Association, two organizations to which he contributed time and funding.

A Vietnam veteran, Staff Sergeant Mar was one of a handful of specially chosen Oriental Americans who prowled the borders of Vietnam and Laos in the late 1950s. These all-Asian reconnaissance teams were inserted into hostile territories wearing sterile uniforms and carrying non-attributable equipment. Their mission? To gather ground intelligence for ongoing U.S. special operations. These dangerous exploits would have been grist for many stories — but Mar felt oath-bound not to talk about them and so never did. In the course of his military training Al earned his master parachutist wings and the Army's coveted scuba badge. He was intensely proud of his SF combat patch and of his wartime association with the 1st Special Forces Group.

Artist In Steel

Returning to his civilian occupation as a knife designer, Mar was soon working for Gerber Legendary Blades. Mar's eye for innovation and depth of understanding regarding both sporting and combat knives soon saw Gerber enjoying success after success in the cutlery industry. Even today the majority of Gerber's most popular field knives and folders owe their birthright to the keen mind of Al Mar.

After several years as Gerber's senior designer, Al elected to leave and

start his own specialty knife company, Al Mar Knives (AMK). "I needed more freedom to be creative," he remembered, "and less busy-work management headaches."

The first few years at AMK were tough ones, but with the help of Al's wife Ann and a headful of ideas, AMK soon began to catch fire. The Fang I and II knives were strong evolutions of Mar's work on the Gerber Mark I, itself considered the finest production boot knife then available.

Wanting to capture the specialty folding-knife market, Mar sought out custom knifemakers and became their student. Al Mar Knives would introduce American cutlery buyers to the front-lock folder, with the Osprey, Hawk, Falcon and Eagle models becoming the most popular such collection in the industry. "We look at what everyone else is doing and go in the opposite direction," Mar would say of AMK's success.

If there was one project that was Al's most personal, it was the SERE-Attack knife he co-designed with Special Forces Colonel Nick Rowe. Meant for the special-warfare inventory at Fort Bragg, the SERE folder was targeted for distribution to those Green Berets being sent into the most hostile of situations. The ultimate folding survival knife, the SERE I soon became an AMK classic. An unspecified number of sterile SEREs were sent to Rowe's command, with a commercial version becoming available on the open market soon after.

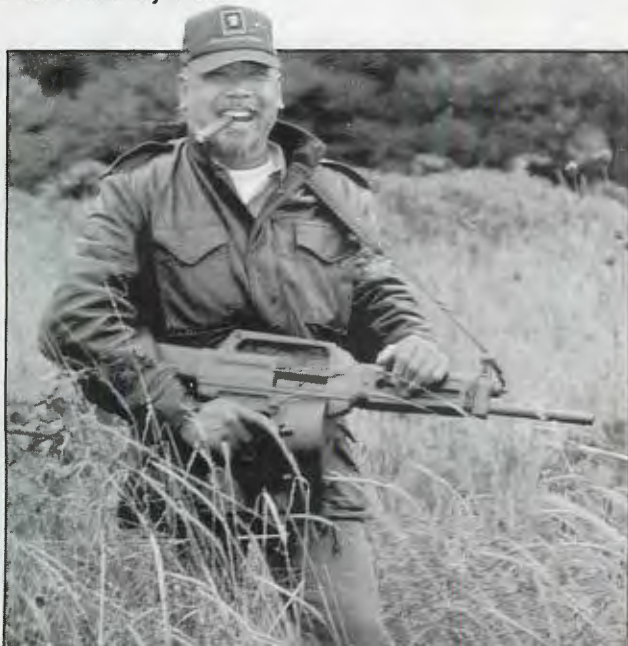
"The everyday soldier needs two knives," Mar preached. "One should be a multi-blade folder or lockback for common tasks, the other a combat knife with a blade no shorter than 4½ inches and no longer than 8 inches." Naturally AMK sought to fill the needs of the everyday soldier with a wide array of just such selections.

Gentleman

Above all else, Al Mar was a gentleman. He blended his business life with his personal interests, serving the community as a reserve deputy sheriff and contributing to those causes in which he believed. As AMK's success grew, so did his circle of favored charities and projects. Al became an avid member of the National Rifle Association and turned his energy and funds toward other organizations such as the United H'mong Foundation and toward humanitarian aid to El Salvador. "It's staggering to see how involved Al was around the world," his wife proudly recalled. "The man never stopped giving of himself."

But it was the cutlery industry that was Mar's first passion. Capable of far more work than AMK could handle, Al shared his talent throughout the industry. "He could sit down with a pencil

An enthusiastic promoter of firearms ownership, Al maintained a respectable collection of both sporting and military-style weapons. Mar's AMK Law Enforcement Invitational is one of the Pacific Northwest's most challenging shooting matches; it will continue as an annual event despite Al's death. Photo: courtesy author



and a napkin and come up with a design that would knock your socks off," remembered Bob Taylor, co-designer of the AMK Warrior knife. Indeed, Mar once showed me a list of popular blade designs he'd supplied to those considered his competition. In Mar's mind, the craft was big enough for everyone.

"The only way we as an industry can grow and get better is to share," Al said. "What I design for Al Mar Knives is unique to us. At the same time I have no problem helping my peers, many of whom are also my friends."

In the final days of his life, before being unexpectedly struck down by a cerebral aneurysm, Al was enjoying a series of both personal and professional highs. Attending the 13th Annual SOF Convention, he was pleased to sponsor three seminars there, one introducing the AMK Warrior. His shooting teams once again placed high in the SOF Three-Gun Match, with Al's own performance giving him great satisfaction.

Behind the scenes, Mar met with the leaders of the H'mong people, who honored him by conducting a private ceremony honoring his membership in their community. "He was a contributor in a world where 80% of the people are no more than air breathers," said retired Special Forces Colonel Fred Caristo. "Al Mar touched hundreds, if not thousands of people in a positive way. He was a good man, and truly a warrior."



Al Mar gave freely of himself and his resources, not only to his peers in the industry, but to those organizations and groups whose causes he believed in. Photo: courtesy author

Returning to Oregon, Al oversaw the AMK Law Enforcement Invitational shooting match held yearly at the Tri-County Rod and Gun Club. By all accounts it was his most successful match to date, leaving Mar pleased with both his range officers' performances and the high turnout.

A Friend Remembered


On 1 November 1992, Al Mar was memorialized in a traditional Buddhist ceremony held in Portland, Oregon. Friends and relatives from around the world came to pay respects. Cards, letters and flowers came from those unable to make the trip. A color guard from A Company, 3rd Battalion, 12th Special Forces Group (Airborne) opened the ceremony with selected Green Berets presenting memorial plaques from the Special Forces Association and the Special Operations Association.

Ann Mar was presented with an American flag earned through her husband's honorable service to his country. Robert K. Brown presented a plaque from the Special Operations Association to Al's daughter, Ryanne.

In life, Alfred "Al" Mar made quiet yet powerful statements about ideals, personal honor and ethics. In passing, Mar left

Continued on page 68

AID, ATTACK &



NAIROBI, KENYA, was the jumping-off point for journalists trying to make it to Somalia ahead of the U.S. Marine Corps' landing in Mogadishu on 9 December 1992.

The U.S. Air Force was flying C-130 Hercules transports into Somalia, but wasn't hauling any civilians. I finally managed to finagle a seat on a Southern Air Transport C-130 with help of Bob Koeppe of the Lutheran World Federation, one of the private agencies carrying relief supplies. I had to travel light: some bottled water, MREs, toiletries and clothing in a light backpack. Next time I'll take a GI poncho and some pre-sweetened Kool-Aid.

My traveling companions to Somalia were a Fox television crew. They brought along the body armor they wore during the L.A. riots: "Standard equipment for us," they laughed. "Armed gangs are nothing new for us."

I brought along a GI Kevlar helmet and flak jacket. Once the shooting stopped in Mogadishu, I no longer needed the helmet, but I wore the flak jacket every day I was in Somalia. Kevlar vests may not stop everything, but they'll sure stop a knife blade, and a number of photographers had been ripped off by young knife-wielding hoodlums in Mogadishu. At 6 feet 2 inches and 225 pounds, I was more than a match for any skinny little Somali punk who tried to pick my pocket or put a knife to my throat, but the flak jacket made me feel "stick-proof." And it was great in the rain: Torrents of water ran off the Kevlar panels like water off a duck.

Since only Westerners had any money, word was sent back to the hotel that, for a fee, stolen camera

RESTORE HOPE

Three Weeks On The Ground With U. S. Spearhead In Somalia

by Dale B. Cooper

Humvee-mounted Marine patrol in Mogadishu responds to sniper threat with M249 SAW, .50 M2 Browning machine gun and Mark 19 Model 3 40mm grenade launcher. No ragtag band of hoodlums in their right minds would seek confrontation with such an armed force — but by afternoon when many Somalis are juked out on *khat*, they're not necessarily in their right minds. Photo: Van der Stock/Liaison



Marine brass worked to quickly set up infrastructure to feed thousands of starving Somalis in Baidoa. From left: Maj. Gen. Charles Wilhelm, Lt. Col. Tom O'Leary and Col. Greg Newbold. Photo: Dale B. Cooper



French Legionnaire sniper on patrol in Mogadishu armed with GIAT-made FR-F2 rifle scans for a hostile target. From experience, Somali boy knows how to deal with the dangers of gunfire: Plug your ears.
 Photo: Van der Stock/Liaison

equipment would be returned: TV cameras were bringing \$2,000, a few hundred to \$1,000 would ransom a top-of-the-line Canon or Nikon.

The Miami-based crew I flew in with was one of nine Southern Air Transport crews operating in and out of Somalia from Nairobi and Mombasa. It took them 38 hours to fly in their L-382Gs (a civilian C-130 Hercules) via the Canary Islands and Ivory Coast to Kenya. Seventy-five percent of all Southern Air employees are former military. Unlike military pilots who have a tour of several months, Southern's tour in Somalia was two weeks. During this time they averaged 50 takeoffs/landings on dirt strips.

Our cargo was 38,500 pounds of Uni-Mix, a mixture of red beans and rice — the basic ration being fed to thousands of starving Somalis by relief organizations. Uni-Mix smells like dog food and doesn't look much better, but it'll keep you alive.

Mogadishu-West, or Mog-West as the

aircrews call it, is a 4,200-foot dirt strip 50 clicks west of Mogadishu, and the worst in Somalia. Heavy rains had turned Mog-West into a bog, but the real problem was fog. Two transports ahead of us had aborted because they couldn't see the ground — not us. We began a slow descent through the fog that shrouded the former military airfield, built by Somali dictator Siad Barre to handle daily drug flights.

Before Marines arrived and seized control of nine airfields in Somalia, ones like Mog-West shut down for three hours daily so fresh *khat* (see sidebar), a native narcotic sold in bundles like bean sprouts, could be delivered fresh from Ethiopia. Before landing, aircraft flying into Mog-

Clutching his ubiquitous AK, bodyguard Abde Mohammed, 14-year-old wounded veteran of Somali clan wars, rides shotgun in back of author's rented Toyota en route from Mogadishu to Baidoa.
 Photo: Dale B. Cooper



West buzzed the field to ensure no other aircraft were in the pattern.

Many civilian C-130s landing in Somalia were met by "technicals," typically a Toyota pickup bristling with heavy machine guns and a half-dozen young men wearing reflector sunglasses and carrying AKs and M16s. "Welcome to Somalia," they'd say as journalists got off the transports. "That'll be twenty bucks." Aircrews had to shell out \$200 — the "landing fee" according to the guys with guns.

UNICEF, the Red Cross, CARE, World Vision and the Lutheran World Federation (which sponsored my flight) all paid through the nose for "technical assistants" to protect food convoys from airfields like Mog-West to their compounds in Mogadishu.

"Basically, we've been held hostage by these thugs. If we wanted to move any food or go anywhere, we had to pay them off first," said Paul Mitchell of the United Nations' World Food Program. "Without them, we couldn't function."

I was lucky. The local welcoming committee apparently looked at the fog and thought no planes would be landing at Mog-West. By the time they reacted, we were on our way to town. Sorry guys. You win some, and some are rained out.

There were no ground crews, no forklifts — just a handful of Somali men to unload the lifesaving food. In less than a half-hour, the Southern crew was cranking up and turning around for Nairobi, where "hot showers and whiskey sours" awaited them. There were none of these where I was going.

I watched the Southern Air Transport take off and disappear into a fog bank at the north end of Mog-West as the Fox TV crew and I threw our gear into the back of a tandem trailer truck that would haul the Uni-Mix to Save The Children, a relief agency in Mogadishu. The 40-mile trip would take almost as long as it took us to fly to Somalia from neighboring Kenya.

Every Somali's Got A Gun

Anything or anyone that moved in Somalia, moved under armed guard. The convoy to Save The Children's compound was protected by three technical trucks — all pickups loaded with young men armed to the teeth.

I soon learned not to stare. As we left the airstrip and drove through a tiny village, I noticed several gun trucks parked under acacia trees to conceal them from the air, sporting recoilless rifles and anti-aircraft cannons. While trying to determine if the weaponry was Soviet or chicom, I locked my eyes on the targets too long: An angry young man with an AK made eye contact and drew his index finger across his throat. Enough said, pal.

Later — I thought it was my imagination at first — a young Somali boy appeared to be pointing a 12.7mm Soviet heavy machine gun at me from a Toyota

truckload of technicals bringing up the rear of our armed convoy. Every time I moved to a different side of the truck, the muzzle of the gun seemed to follow.

I finally had had it, and stood up and shook my fist at him, motioning him to point the machine gun away from me. That was like giving any L.A. gang member the finger. The Toyota pulled alongside the tractor trailer and I suddenly was staring down the barrels of a half-dozen AKs, plus two RPGs.

But I didn't blink. Instead, I laughed and took their picture. What a group shot! The truck they were riding in looked like something out of a Mel Gibson "Mad Max" movie. Unfortunately, that shot was on one of a couple dozen rolls of film that were stolen along with my backpack.

We passed many technicals heading out of Dodge before the Marines arrived, taking their crew-served weapons with them. Later, I would see these gun trucks as far north as Baidoa and other towns in the interior.

Our armed convoy finally pulled into Mogadishu. What a hellhole! I have never seen so many guns, even in a combat theater. It seemed like every swinging dick in town had an AK, FAL or M16 hanging

from his shoulder. There were thousands of automatic weapons in the hands of young men, some of them mere boys — snotty-nosed little kids trying to act like men — pathetic. By the careless way they handled the weapons, it was obvious that none of these guys had ever been trained. I saw dozens of rifle grenades bouncing around loose in the back of pickup trucks. It's a miracle none of them exploded.

The Fox TV crew and I were dumped off at the Save The Children compound. "You're on your own now," the convoy coordinator warned.

Welcome To The Hotel Mogadishu

Reporters flooding in before the Marines landed paid exorbitant prices for cars, guards and interpreters, and took every room in what for at least two weeks was Mogadishu's only hotel. Satellite dishes soon sprouted like mushrooms.

"It was crazy," said Mohammed Jirdeh Hussein, who opened the first hotel, a shabby 58-room establishment that had previously been closed more than a year. He called it the "Sahafi Hotel" after the Arabic word for journalist. Up until President Bush left, Hussein had reporters sleep-

KHAT MADNESS

The liberal American media realizes that recolonizing parts of Africa, even in the name of their perceived social agendas, is hypocritical. In an attempt to legitimize their positions, they have been waving the bloody banner of drug abuse, hoping that conservatives will buy off on the Somalia operation — which is essentially left-wing military adventurism.

Khat — catha edulis to botanists — has been used in Africa and the Middle East in some cultures for many generations. Detailed Arab records of its use go back centuries indicating khat was been used as a mild caffeine-type stimulant long before the discovery of coffee.

Historically, the attributes of khat vary greatly, depending on the motive of the chronicler: It is described as both a depressant and an aphrodisiac, a stimulant and somnolent, a powerful narcotic in heavy doses, or to have no more effect than a couple quick cups of strong coffee. And, like drinking their ultra-strong coffee, chewing khat has been a cultural practice among peoples in the region for centuries.

Virtually the only area of agreement involves the fact that khat does suppress hunger. In that regard, ill-fed peasants may become chronic chewers in lean times between crops. It is an aphrodisiac only for those who are convinced it is. In areas such as Somalia where starvation is endemic, it has the potential to become widely used in a short time.

The plant contains three alkaloids — cathine, cathanine and cathidine. American researchers have concluded it elevates blood pressure, increases the respiratory rate, causes indigestion and slightly lowers body temperature. Addictive potential is on a level between heavy caffeine use and mild tobacco dependence.

Traditionally, Somalis have not been heavy khat users. Travelers to Somalia as recently as 15 years ago noted no khat use at all. Current Somali use, if one takes press reports at face value, is epidemic. Although khat use is now widespread, the reality does not fit some press reports. One reporter recently estimated sales of khat in Somalia equalled \$100 million annually — which would equal roughly 6% of the Somalian Gross National Product.

Perhaps one could conclude that increased usage of khat is doing some harm to the Somali economy. But common sense and simple economics dictates that the problem as currently presented by some American journalists is blown way out of proportion.

Health aspects of khat are seemingly on par with coffee and tobacco use, which for Americans are more socially acceptable. Let's hope we never have to face invaders telling us we can't be addicted to caffeine or cigarettes.

— Larry Grupp



French trooper rests on Browning .50; in foreground is French AA NF-1 GPMG. An H&K MP5 with attached suppressor is slung over his shoulder. Somewhat less egalitarian in their treatment of Third World populations than U. S. troops are, French soldiers are not messed with by Somalis. Photo: Peterson/Liaison

ing in a large public room on the ground floor, in hallways and on the roof, all of them paying as much as those with rooms: \$85 per night.

The hotel stationery described a place of "comfort, safety, luxury, for business or discreet weekends." None of the journalists, packed one on top of another in the hotel's hot, stuffy rooms, enjoyed a "discreet weekend." But Hussein admitted: "I made a lot of money."

The hotel was initially protected by a pair of Somali gunners manning a rusting, neglected World War II-vintage 1919A4 .30 Browning machine gun. What a mess: The barrel and breech hadn't seen oil in years. Missing its tripod, the entire gun was covered with scales of rust; a corroded belt of ammo with rusty links languished over the breech. But that was the best Mohammed the hostler could provide in the way of security until French Legionnaires moved in next door.

Nomads who fled fighting in Baardheere, a few hundred clicks to the southwest, watch as Marines roll into Baidoa, where population had swelled with refugees. Anarchy reigned until the Marines' arrival, greeted by street children with chants of "Rambo, Rambo!"

Photo: Dale B. Cooper

Now *this* was security. The French were the only ones who walked the streets of Mogadishu on foot. And nobody, *nobody* messed with them. I saw a lone Legionnaire, his beret cocked at a jaunty angle, wade into a crowd in the marketplace. The scene reminded me of Charlton Heston in *The Ten Commandments* when Moses

parted the Red Sea: Somalis parted in much the same way, giving one of France's finest all the room he needed.

Mohammed was not only cutting corners on security, but also on culinary provisions for the hundreds of journalists staying at his hotel: Breakfast consisted of a half-grapefruit and a piece of bread. Lunch



Part of establishing order is establishing a presence. Marines in Mogadishu patrol acacia thicket that may shelter refugees — or may hide hostiles.

Photo: Peterson/Liaison

wasn't much better. But dinner was always a treat — pasta with a greasy sauce and slices of meat so tough one wondered how they managed to slice it.

The best thing about the meals Mohammed served was that they were delivered on time. Dinner was always served at 1900 sharp. In the beginning reporters would climb over each other to get in line. Later, after many of us got deathly ill from eating off dishes washed in cold water, there was no rush. In fact, some went on liquid diets — bottled water that Mohammed sold for \$48 a case.

The first day in Somalia was a blur, punctuated by bursts of AK fire in the street below my window. Over the next couple days I noticed a pattern to the gunfire: You could set your watch by it. Armed gangs of young men ripped off bursts at the point they got buzzed out on khat (pronounced *char*). For them, it was like jerking off: simply an emotional release.

There was a feeding frenzy in the marketplace every afternoon as fresh shipments of this local locoweed arrived. A few hours after chewing the tender leaves and shoots, Somali men opened fire. Empty shell casings covered the dusty streets in Mogadishu. Spent slugs were found on the roof of the Sahafi Hotel after someone blasted a water tower on the building next door. But the bravado was about to end.

Show Of Force

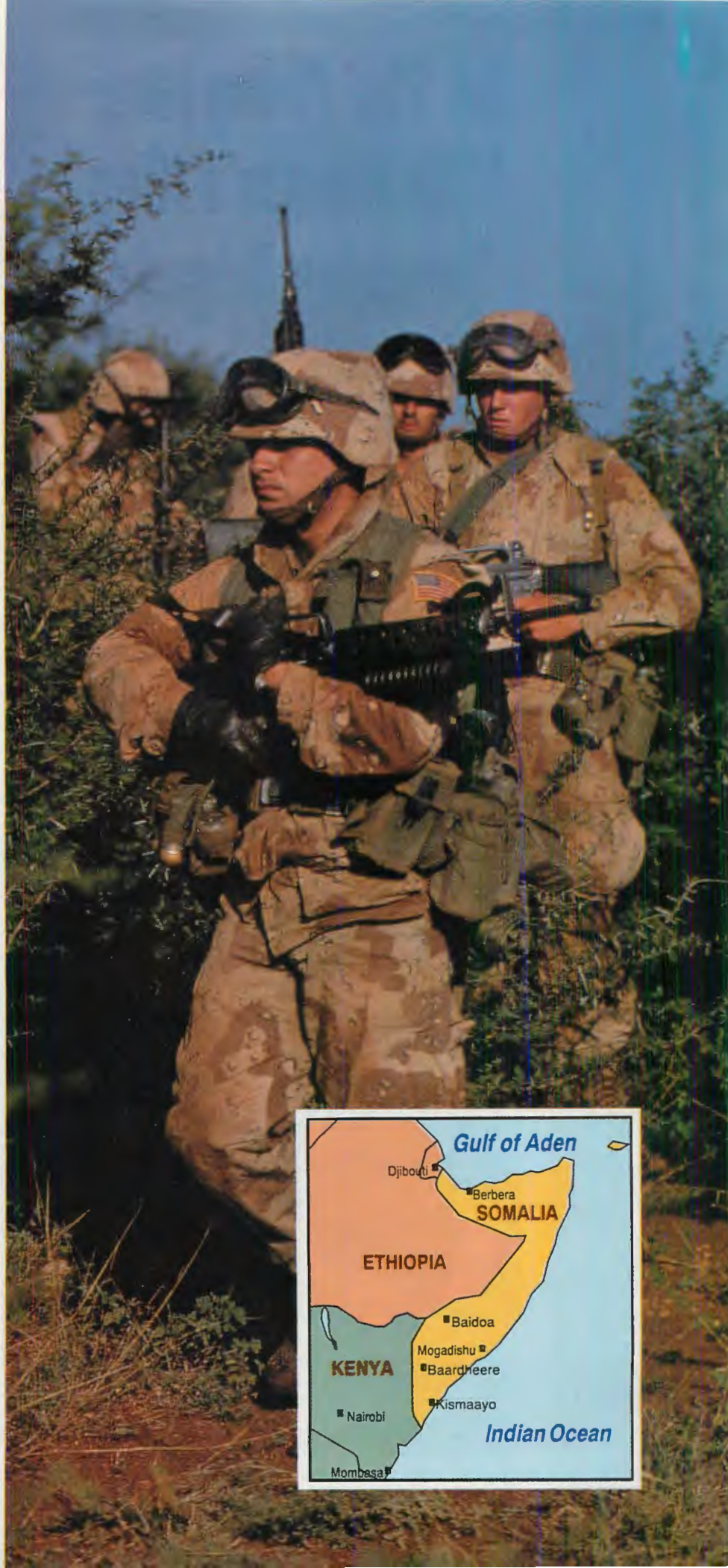
To underscore President Bush's determination to regain control of a city where roving bands of gunmen had been hijacking shipments of food donated by the United States and other countries to feed the hungry in Somalia, a pair of F-14 Tomcats from the flattop *USS Ranger*, offshore in the Indian Ocean, roared in over Mogadishu on a recon mission.

You could almost hear a thousand pairs of eyeballs lock onto the lead Tomcat as the pilot popped flares just in case somebody on the ground had gotten his grubby little hands on a Stinger. No shots were fired, and the Tomcats roared over the horizon on glowing afterburners.

The critical problem in Somalia was, and still is, guns. Uncountable thousands of them. Military weapons — everything from AKs and GPMGs to vehicle-mounted ZPUs and recoilless rifles. Dr. Phil Johnston, CEO of CARE USA, says hope won't be restored in Somalia until these weapons are off the streets.

Although American forces confiscated weapons at checkpoints in Mogadishu and other cities they controlled, they were reluctant to become involved in the tricky

Continued on page 69



On The Firing Line With Bosnia's King Tomislav Brigade

by Col. Robert K. Brown

Dear Colonel:

One hundred fifteen artillery shells hit Tomislavgrad a few days ago. I had driven through the town only a couple of hours before. I guess I was lucky.

Don

This recent fax from one of our Bosnian contacts reminded me that our eight-man *SOF* training team, which spent two weeks training Croatian troops in that town in December of 1992, was also lucky — no incoming while we were about our business.

Which begs the question: What the hell was a group of former military personnel now in their 40s and 50s doing mucking about war-torn Bosnia?

A little background first. *SOF*, over the last dozen or so years, has sent training teams of highly qualified and experienced individuals — mostly Vietnam veterans — to assist democratic underdogs in their fight for freedom all over the world.

SOF teams consisting of from one to 10 members have worked with the Afghan mujahideen, Nicaraguan contras, El Salvadoran army, Burmese Karens, Laotian resistance and even the Christian militia in Lebanon (Technical Editor Peter Kokalis holds the team record with 21 trips to El Salvador over the last 10 years).



Cadre of brigade's Basic Training Center are briefed on a "movement to contact" exercise. Foreign volunteers, mostly of Croatian descent, from Germany, Australia, Canada, the U.K. and France make up cadre. "The International Brigade" was disbanded: Flakes and phonies, whom the Croatians used out of desperation in the opening phase of the war, have been sent home. Experienced personnel have been integrated into main force units. Photo: R. K. Brown

SOF TEAM

Yugo-built M-980 infantry fighting vehicle, part of the brigade's mobile reserve, uses an AMX-10P-type engine, mounts license-built Swiss 20mm cannon and some carry Soviet Sagger AT missiles. Photo: R. K. Brown,

TRAINS THE KING'S CADRE



Below Top: Croatians train on new 40-round variant of Yugo M77, 32-round 128mm "Oganj" MRLS captured from Serbian aggressors. Oganj can set up, fire, reload, fire and bug out in only a few minutes with trained crew; range is over 20 clicks. Photo: R. K. Brown

Below Bottom: Bunker on left is typical of front-line defenses. Croatian troopie holds FN FAL in right hand; in left hand is rotary-magazine 40mm grenade launcher, which had neither proof marks nor manufacturer name. At rear is Maj. Jure Smit, former West German officer, second in command of Croatian brigade trained by SOF. Photo: R. K. Brown



SOF team trained King Tomislav Brigade in sniping, demo, squad-automatic weapons, small unit tactics, patrolling, recon and various aspects of staff management. Standing left to right are: Col. Mike Peck, USA (Ret.); Col. Alex McColl, USAR (Ret.); Maj. John Donovan, USAR (Ret.); Peter Kokalis. Kneeling: Lt. Col. R. K. Brown, USAR (Ret); Maj. Bob Jordan, former Rhodesian SAS. Team photographer was Paul Fanshaw, a 13-year French Foreign Legion veteran. Photo: Paul Fanshaw



Captured T-54/T-55s are mainstays of King Tomislav Brigade's armored force. Photo: R. K. Brown



Fanshaw and Brown toured Bugojno, which has been shelled intermittently for months. Continuing conflict, however, did not prevent enterprising Croatians from opening a new bar — protected from shell fragments by split logs held by pipe stanchions. Photo: R. K. Brown



King Tomislav Brigade cadre trained by SOF's field team. With an eclectic mix of backgrounds and weapons, but with a common purpose, these troops train and lead the men who stand without international aid against Serbian aggression. Standing far right: "Tom" from New York, has been fighting for over a year. Photo: R. K. Brown

We'd sent a three-man team to Croatia in the fall of '91. And based on their estimate of the situation and continuing analysis and evaluation over the ensuing months, it didn't require a degree in nuclear physics to conclude the Serbs were the aggressors and that the Serbian policy of expansionism and "ethnic cleansing" was creating a nightmare of civilian massacres and mass rape unseen in Europe since World War II.

The French, British and Germans who have the military power to stop the carnage lack the will. And the pusillanimous diplomats from the West, including the United States, continue to play goody two shoes, implementing an arms embargo on all parties so as not to "escalate the conflict." Since the Croats and Bosnians have inadequate armor, negligible artillery, no air capability and little in the way of a structured, integrated military force, this disingenuous political pabulum puke can be equated to telling the Jews Hitler forced into the gas chambers they could not be armed as it would "escalate the conflict."

Therefore SOF decided to organize a major training effort after Robin Anthony, one of our freelance correspondents, informed us that his cousin, Col. Zeljko Glasnovic was eager to host an SOF team. Glasnovic, a five year veteran of the Canadian army also served three years with the French Foreign Legion, is OIC of the King Tomislav Brigade responsible for the defense of an area inhabited by ethnic Croats located between Split, Croatia, and Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Glasnovic has the bodies but is desperately short of experienced personnel. His brigade is composed of ethnic Croats with a handful of foreign volunteers from Canada, New Zealand, Australia, Germany, England and the United States. The foreign volunteers and a few former Yugoslav army regulars make up his cadre. He's willing to accept additional experienced personnel but they have to pay their own way to Tomislavgrad and even then there are no guarantees of acceptance. Making money can't be a prime motivator as the current pay for a sergeant is about \$30 a month (paid in German currency). It would take several years at that wage just to pay the cost of your airfare to Zagreb.

After looking at the facts, we decided it was a good cause and that we could make a small but valuable contribution. It was also an opportunity to take on the "Nazis of the 90s."

SOF policy dictates that in missions of this type where we're going into an unknown area, an advance team should be sent. Special Project Director Alex



This Soviet-made ZSU-57-2 57mm SP anti-aircraft gun captured from Serbs is employed as part of the King Tomislav Brigade's mobile reserve in a ground defense role. Photo: Paul Fanshaw

McColl and Robin Anthony were selected to make up this team and their mission was to finalize subjects to be taught, lay on training aids such as blackboards and chalk, insure trainees were selected and schedules prepared, locate classrooms and range facilities, select interpreters, obtain proper amounts of ammunition and explosives, etc... Once on the ground they would communicate to *SOF* headquarters what was needed, what was laid on and how the overall situation was developing.

After hearing what skills Glasnovic was most in need of, I selected the team: Contributing Editor for demolitions, Major John Donovan (USAR, Ret.), would provide instruction on how to blow things up; Peter Kokalis would handle the squad automatic weapons end; Col. Mike Peck, USA (Ret.), and Maj. Robert Jordan would teach sniping, reconnaissance and patrolling operations; Col. Alex McColl, USAR (Ret.), trained the Croats in staff management and organization, field artillery fire control and crater and fragment analysis.

To make a two week story short, the mission was successful with little in the way of heart-stopping excitement. Sure, there was the odd air raid alarm and a few unexplained burst of automatic weapons fire in the night, but on the whole nothing life threatening.

After over two weeks on the ground we successfully accomplished our mission, though we could have kept busy for the next six months. We also made many new friends, ate too

Continued on page 74

SOF Editor/Publisher Col. R. K. Brown with Col. Zeljko Glasnovic, right. A five-year veteran of Canadian army and three-year French Foreign Legion vet, Glasnovic serves as OIC of King Tomislav Brigade. Photo: Paul Fanshaw



Croatians have armed themselves with a wide miscellany of small arms. Donovan holds Barrett .50 sniping rifle that somehow filtered through the arms embargo. (No, *SOF* did not pack it over in a duffel bag.) Photo: R. K. Brown

God bless the .45. When a heavy .45 caliber bullet of the correct design is driven at moderate velocity, it will still make the biggest hole and penetrate deeper than any other handgun cartridge commonly employed in a gunfight.

By March 1904, Frankford Arsenal was ordered to commence development of an effective pistol cartridge. Starting with the commercial caliber .45 automatic pistol cartridge manufactured by Winchester for the Colt Model 1905 automatic pistol, both rimless and semirimmed case types were developed. The rimless case was selected, and in 1906 the arsenal produced 10,000 rounds for testing with a 230-grain, cupronickel-jacketed bullet. A similar order to the Union Metallic Cartridge Co. was received in 1907. Subsequently the width of the extractor groove was increased; in the summer of 1911 this round was adopted by the U.S. Army. The rest is history and to this day, the .45 ACP cartridge remains the overwhelming choice of armed professionals in this country, when not prevented from choosing it by organizational directives.

In recent years the problem has become one of locating a pistol in .45 ACP caliber that can be fired with reliability without expensive alterations. You can usually expect to pay more in necessary modifications than you will to acquire a currently manufactured Colt M1911A1 series pistol. Sturm, Ruger & Company Inc. (Dept. SOF, 200 Ruger Road, Prescott, AZ 86301; phone: 602-778-6555, fax: 602-778-6633) has introduced a .45 caliber pistol that works without additional gunsmithing. Furthermore, you can purchase three of the Ruger KP90DC pistols for the cost of one overpriced and overvalued Walther P88 9mm whizbang and still have coin left over for a slug of hard ball.

The KP90DC (a "K" prefix in the Ruger product line indicates stainless steel construction; "DC" stands for "DeCocker") is the evolutionary offspring of Ruger's center-fire, double-action, semi-automatic pistols that commenced with introduction of the 9mm Parabellum P85 in 1987 (See "Ruger's P-85," *SOF* Aug. '87). This initial entry in the line was quickly followed by the P85 MkII and then the P89DC. Versions chambered for the .40 S&W cartridge are now available also, and a compact version is very close to production series.

Righteous & Reliable

Ruger is the world's established leader in cost-effective investment casting. Developed at its Pine Tree Castings Division in New Hampshire, Ruger's metallurgical processes are without equal. Strengthwise, modern investment-cast components are every bit as good as, and in many instances better than, forgings — and far less labor-intensive. In addition, castings do not have the lengthwise grain structure that sometimes induces longitudinal cracking in forged components. Far fewer machining and gauging operations are required to finish an investment casting. By these methods Ruger has continually placed rugged and dependable firearms into the public's hands at reasonable cost.

Of the KP90DC's approximately 56 total components, no less than 27 are investment castings. While the slides for this pistol are generally cast at the Pine Tree facility, most frames and the small parts are made in the Prescott, Arizona, factory.

The slide, trigger, trigger block and bar, and the hammer and sear are cast from 400-series stainless steel. The barrel and its monobloc are also cast from heat-treated 400-series stainless steel. All of the small components are made from stainless steel as well, with the exception of the grip screws and the ejector — a sheet-metal pressing that has been finished by a black-oxide process. All springs have been fabricated from strong music wire. The frame is a lightweight A356T6 aircraft-grade, aluminum-alloy investment casting that is hard-anodized with a matte-gray, glare-resistant satin finish. Using CNC (Computer Numerical Control) equipment, all of these components are machine-finished and assembled at Ruger's Prescott plant.

Method of operation is by conventional locked, short recoil. A rectangular locking lug above the barrel's chamber engages the slide's ejection port while the slide stop's axis pin mates with a recessed area on the barrel's underlug. During recoil, the slide and barrel remain locked for only a short distance until the slide stop,



RIGHT C PRICE

Text & Photos by Peter G. Kokalis

which passes through a swinging link pinned to the barrel's underlug, tilts the barrel downward out of battery with the slide. At this time the extractor withdraws the empty case and as the slide continues rearward the case strikes the ejector and is propelled out the ejection port. The compressed recoil spring drives the slide forward to strip another round from the magazine and



Exceptionally reliable, the Ruger KP90DC .45 ACP pistol provides the lightest trigger pull weights of any double-action semiauto.

ALIBER — RIGHT

Ruger's Evolutionary KP90DC

chamber it upon locking with the barrel.
Dimensions are comparable to other models in this series. With an empty magazine, the weight is 33.5 ounces (950 grams). Since the barrel is only 4.5 inches (114mm) long, the overall length has been kept to 7.875 inches (200mm). The KP90DC is 1.5 inches (38mm) in width and 5.3125 (150mm) inches in height.

The barrel's broached, six-groove bore has a right-hand twist with one turn in 16 inches (406mm) — standard for caliber .45 ACP handguns. Originally the barrel tube was threaded into a monobloc containing the chamber, upper and lower locking lugs and the feed ramp. Shortly after the P85's introduction this was changed and the barrel and monobloc are now cast as one piece.

KP90DC SPECIFICATIONS

Caliber:45 ACP.
Operation:	Locked-breech, short-recoil, semiautomatic, double-action trigger system with spring-loaded decocking lever and no manual safety, firing pin safety.
Weight, empty:	33.5 ounces (950 grams).
Overall length:	7.875 inches (200mm).
Height:	5.3125 inches (150mm).
Width:	1.5 inches (38mm).
Barrel:	Six-groove, broached bore, right-hand twist with one turn in 16 inches (406mm). Polished feed ramp and roller-burnished chamber.
Barrel length:	4.5 inches (114mm).
Finish:	Aluminum-alloy frame, gray-anodized; stainless-steel slide and other components; black-oxide grip screws and ejector.
Grip panels:	Black General Electric Xenoy 6123 resin with deep grooves and Ruger escutcheons; single retaining screw on each panel.
Magazine:	7-round capacity; single-column, detachable box-type; steel body with removable floorplate, five indicator holes and plastic follower.
Sights:	Front: fixed, forward sloping ramp-type with white circular dot. Rear: open square-notch with two circular white dots, adjusting for windage zero by drifting in slide dovetail.
Price:	\$488.65 with two magazines and plastic storage box with padlock and key.
Manufacturer:	Sturm, Ruger & Company Inc., Dept. SOF, 200 Ruger Road, Prescott, AZ 86301; phone: 602-778-6555, fax: 602-778-6633.
T&E Summary:	Exceptionally reliable; considerable muzzle jump; moderate perceived recoil; lightest trigger pull weights of any double-action semiauto; generally excellent handling characteristics; high quality throughout; economical.



Ruger KP90DC .45 ACP pistol, fieldstripped.

To improve performance with all types of bullet configurations, the feed ramp is polished at the factory. Chambers are roller-burnished to insure smooth extraction.

There is no barrel bushing and the muzzle end of the barrel rests in a hole drilled into the front end of the slide. The slide's large, open-top ejection port provides a large exit area for ejected cases.

The ambidextrous, spring-loaded, hammer-drop lever is slide-mounted. Press down on the lever and it will safely drop the hammer without initiating a manual safety. When released, the hammer-drop lever will return to its original position. Just pull the trigger to fire the first round double-action. On subsequent shots, the slide will roll back the hammer for single-action fire.

If we must have double-action semiauto pistols, this is their most sensible form. Presumably for the brain-dead, the left side

of the slide below and in front of the decocking lever features an arced arrow pointing downward with the legend "DECOCK ONLY."

Another version of the Ruger .45 ACP pistol has a slide-mounted hammer-drop lever that also operates a manual safety. I cannot recommend this model. There have already been several incidents where law enforcement personnel have attempted to fire pistols under stress with mechanisms of this type in the "safe" position.

Introduced in 1992, the firing-pin safety system now found on all of the Ruger "P" series pistols is remarkably simple. When the decocking levers are in the "fire" position (upward), the rear of the firing pin protrudes 1/32-inch beyond the rear face of the slide, where the hammer can impinge against it. When the decocking levers are depressed 45 degrees to drop the hammer, the cam surface on the left lever pushes the firing pin forward 1/16-inch inside the slide, where the hammer cannot reach it and where the firing pin remains securely locked against further movement. In this latter position, the tip of the firing pin is behind the breech face.

Although smaller, the KP90DC's extractor is similar to that of the Model 1921/28 Thompson .45 ACP submachine gun, which is noted for its strength and reliability.

Aligned with the lower hole in the front of the slide, the recoil spring's aluminum guide rod has an unusual "hourglass" configuration at its front end to clear the bottom lug on the barrel during disassembly. Its steel tip locks the barrel's swinging link securely in place to facilitate reassembly. To prevent unintentional disassembly, the recoil spring's extended end goes into the slide while its closed end slips snugly over the guide rod.

The slide's interior-cut grooves ride on two sets of short rails protruding above the frame in front of the trigger and back at the hammer.

Serious Sights

The KP90DC's black-oxide, forward-sloping, ramp-type front sight blade, held to the slide by two roll pins, sits on top of a platform integral with the slide casting. It contains a single white-dot insert.

The black-oxide, open square-notch rear sight can be adjusted laterally for windage

zero by drifting it crosswise in its dovetail on top of the slide. It has two white-dot inserts. Non-illuminated colored dots are of little use in stress scenarios and I would prefer self-luminous tritium sights of the type provided by Innovative Weaponry Inc. (Dept. SOF, 337 Eubank N.E., Albuquerque, NM 87123; phone: 800-334-3573) for the Ruger semiauto pistol series. I am particularly impressed by their new multicolor night-sight system that focuses attention on the front sight and speeds target acquisition by a considerable margin.

The slide stop lever (located on the left side), too lengthy on the original P85, has been abbreviated. Those who fire from the Weaver position will no longer find their thumbs invariably resting on the slide stop where the slightest downward pressure would prevent the slide from holding open after the last round had been fired.



When stuffed with Winchester's new Black Talon ammunition, the Ruger KP90DC becomes a force to be reckoned with in any gunfight at typical handgun ranges.

Most unusual is the ejector, fabricated from a sheet-metal pressing. It must be pivoted downward on its axis pin into the magazine-well before the slide can be separated from the frame.

The trigger mechanism is simple and robust. When the trigger is pulled, rotating on its integral trunnions rather than on the usual pivot pin, it draws a trigger bar (on the left side of the frame's interior) forward. If the hammer is uncocked, the trigger bar first pivots it rearward, compressing the hammer spring (coiled around a steel strut). At the end of the trigger pull, a window in the trigger bar pulls a peg on the firing-pin block to free the firing pin and release the sear. If the hammer is already cocked, the trigger bar, disengaged from its bent on the hammer, rotates only the firing-pin block and sear forward to release the hammer. The hammer then falls forward to strike the firing pin. When the trigger is released, the trigger bar is thrust rearward again by a spring-loaded pin and the trigger itself pivots forward.

A military lanyard ring has been provided at the end of the hammer spring's seat and protrudes out the bottom of the frame. I find no use for this atavistic appendage. However, my good friend Wiley Clapp from *Handgunning* magazine and others who apparently perform dismounted drill in cavalry boots and spurs apparently do. The front of the trigger guard is hooked for those who desire such nonsense. Experienced shooters employing the proper two-hand grip will simply ignore this.

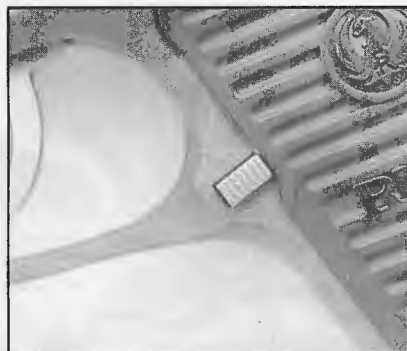
What A Handful

Trigger pull weights are a function of the hammer spring's strength. The double-action pull weight on our KP90DC test specimen was just at 7 pounds. That's almost incredible for a double-action semiauto. Single-action pull weight was a fairly crisp 3.75 pounds.

Deeply grooved, the grip panels are molded of black General Electric Xenoy 6123 resin — a dense, high-impact engineering plastic. They each carry the Ruger name and escutcheon. Only a single screw retains each grip panel. Commendable, but the steel screws turn into threads tapped directly into the aluminum frame. I would much prefer steel bushings, as they can be replaced if the threads strip.

No longer ambidextrous, the magazine latch must be pushed straight inward (not forward as with the P85) to release the magazine. When released, magazines fall cleanly away.

P90 magazines hold seven rounds. With one up the spout, this gives you eight car-



KP90DC magazine latch must be pushed straight inward to release the magazine. When released, magazines fall cleanly away.

tridges to work with before a speed or tactical reload is required. Until these 9mm whizbangs with burp-gun stick magazines entered the scene a decade ago, this used to be enough to get the job done. It's still enough for most armed professionals.

The single-column magazine body is a sheet-metal pressing. There are five indicator holes on the left side. The magazine follower and floorplate are black plastic. As the floorplate is removable, the magazines are easily disassembled for cleaning.

Fieldstripping the KP90DC presents no problems. If the hammer is cocked, depress the decocking lever and drop the hammer. Withdraw the magazine. Rack the slide to the rear and hold it open by upward pressure on the slide stop. Push the ejector



The KP90DC's slide stop lever (left) has taken on an abbreviated form. The ambidextrous, spring-loaded, hammer-drop lever is slide-mounted and will drop the hammer without initiating a manual safety.

downward into the magazine-well, until it locks in its lower position. A projection on the ejector will lower the firing-pin block and permit forward movement of the slide.

Allow the slide to move forward under control. Align the lug on the slide stop with the disassembly notch on the slide. Press the slide stop from the right side and pull it out of the frame until it locks in its captive position. Push the slide assembly forward and remove it from the frame. Lift up the rear end of the guide rod and withdraw it and the recoil spring from the slide. Pull the barrel away from the slide and out to the rear.

Remove the grip panels. No further disassembly should be attempted. After cleaning and lubrication, reassemble in the reverse order, making certain the ejector is still down. Insertion of a magazine will return the ejector to its working position.

Test-Firing Notes

During *Soldier Of Fortune's* extensive test-firing of the KP90DC we were unable to induce a stoppage of any kind. This is to no small degree a consequence of the fact that the top cartridge in the magazine rests almost in-line with the barrel's axis and requires very little lift before entering the chamber.

Ammunition used in this test and evaluation included reloads with 230-grain, hard-cast roundnose bullets propelled by 6.3 grains of Hercules Unique, Winchester 230-grain Jacketed Hollow Points (JHP — product No. Q4243), Winchester Black Talons (product No. S45A) with the 230-grain SXT (Supreme Expansion Talon) bullet and both Black Hills (Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 5070 Rapid City, SD 57709; phone: 605-348-5150) 185-grain JHPs and 230-grain JHPs

Continued on page 65

HEROES IN A H

At least once a year, operatives from CCC (Command and Control Central), the supersecret special operations unit under the aegis of MACV-SOG (Military Assistance Command Vietnam – Studies and Observations Group) based in Kontum, would run a SLAM (Search-Locate-Annihilate-Monitor) mission along one of the many branches of the Ho Chi Minh Trail complex in Laos and Cambodia in an attempt to disrupt the enemy's supply lines.

The SLAM missions were unique. A large "Hatchet Force" of indigenous troops and their Special Forces advisers would helicopter into a Laotian or Cambodian target area, secure it, set up perimeter defenses fortified with dozens of claymores, then dig foxholes, construct bunkers and attempt to shut down the southbound North Vietnamese Army (NVA) traffic, whether it be troops, munitions or matériel.

Generally, the Hatchet Force was around 150 troops, about a company in strength and organized into platoons tailored to specific missions. Force members usually included several M60 machine gunners, a 60mm mortar team, LAWs and, on some missions, a 90mm recoilless rifle.

Additionally, several recon teams would be inserted for perimeter patrol. At least one CCC recon team was always on standby at the Dak To launch site as a "Brightlight" team to go into hot targets to extract any friendly casualties or to do BDAs (Bomb Damage Assessments) following B-52 Arclight missions.

Usually, these Brightlight teams would be heavily armed, with hundreds of extra rounds plus grenades and M79s. Team members generally carried no food – only one canteen of water and extra medical supplies.

In March 1969, CCC commander Lieutenant Colonel Fred Abt and his S-3 section put the finishing touches on a spectacular SLAM mission – code-named Operation Nightcap. On paper the

Hatchet Force & Spike Teams Choke Ho Chi Minh Trail

by Isaac Staats

mission sounded easy: block all traffic on a particular artery of the Ho Chi Minh Trail for a week, along Highway 9.

As on many other SLAM missions, the Hatchet Force was successfully inserted with three recon teams: one each to the north, south and west of the Hatchet Force, while the Hatchet Force troops quickly dug in. This was on 19 March 1969.

Charlie Reacts

Without coming under significant enemy fire, the troops were inserted in the Tri-Border area north of Cambodia. Meanwhile RT (Recon Team) South Carolina was placed on Brightlight standby at Dak To.

Once the Hatchet Force was on the ground, it didn't take long for brother Charles to react. Before nightfall, the NVA would have the troops surrounded: This particular section of the Ho Chi



ORNET'S NEST

Minh Trail complex was apparently vital to the communists.

Within hours after insertion, the Hatchet Force's perimeter was being probed by NVA. Friendly intelligence sources monitored NVA radio communications directing an NVA battalion toward the target area to harass the special operations troops. The longer the Hatchet Force was on the ground, the more intense the NVA attacks became. Then, just before nightfall, tragedy struck.

Because of the quick and strong reaction of the NVA, the Hatchet Force had called in numerous air strikes. On one of the napalm runs, an F-4 Phantom made an east-west run instead of going north-to-south. It was never clear who made the error, whether it was the radioman or the pilot. But the napalm canister hit a foxhole on the eastern perimeter, killing at least a half-dozen Montagnards from the Hatchet Force.

The eastern perimeter was critical as it was about 200 meters from the road the force was supposed to be interdicting. Within minutes after the mistaken air strike, NVA mortars knocked out the 90mm recoilless rifle team also on the eastern perimeter, wounding the Special Forces crewman trained to operate the weapon and his indigenous ammo bearer.

Before darkness settled in, the fighting escalated to its highest intensity of the day as enemy mortars began to bracket the Hatchet Force. The NVA mortarmen had become highly skilled by this point in the war and took little time to zero in on a stationary target. Taking advantage of waning twilight, NVA soldiers also moved a couple 12.7mm heavy machine guns into position.

Volunteer Recoilless Gunner

Because the recoilless rifle team was knocked out, Lt. Col. Abt — working from his HQ monitoring the extensive radio traffic — asked if anyone who could operate a 90mm recoilless rifle was willing to take a last-light flight into the team perimeter. The One-Zero (team leader) on RT South Carolina, a young, cocky second lieutenant from Trenton, New Jersey, code-named Winston Duke, approached Abt at the Dak To launch site and volunteered. A chopper making a final water and ammo resupply dropped the young lieutenant inside the perimeter at last light on day one.

Although he had been in-country only three months, the lieutenant had run numerous missions with recon teams inside the Laotian and Cambodian areas of operation, where MACV-SOG

teams had operated in complete secrecy since the early '60s.

Of course the NVA and the *folks* in those areas knew about the MACV-SOG Spike Teams (recon teams usually composed of a couple SF advisers and up to nine indigenous troops) and Hatchet forces, but the American public was not told about them, nor of the heroics of men running those missions and the pilots and aircrews who daily put their lives on the line supporting them.

Back then, U.S. Green Berets and Air Force personnel who supported those missions and "disappeared" in the Prairie Fire (Laos) and Daniel Boone (Cambodia) areas of operation were still listed as Missing In Action in South Vietnam — a lie that didn't bother the State Department pinstripes. Americans honored for valor in those areas, like Fred Zabitowski who received the Medal of Honor for his heroics in Laos, were given citations reflecting that their actions occurred in South Vietnam.

On one of his earlier missions in Laos as a One-Zero, Duke had sat along a trail and observed the NVA moving trucks with their night lights, called black lights, dimly illuminating the path. The lights were barely visible away from the route because the NVA welded a metal flanges over each light, which directed its beam toward the ground, eliminating most of the horizontal glare. On that mission, Duke had been unable to get tactical air to nail the convoy — but the experience would aid his performance in Operation Nightcap.

Duke was inserted on a hilltop about 300 meters from the roadway, and Abt calmly told him to pop anything that moved down the Ho Chi Minh Trail complex.

Asia's Largest Road Gang

What the American public, and especially the media, did not realize was that by 1969 what had once been a small series of little bike trails and footpaths was now an ever-growing complex of roads and trails, with more than 40,000 troops and 20,000 to 60,000 laborers and road-building personnel assigned to maintain and operate just the Laotian section. Some branches were so large

For several days in March 1969, a dug-in and besieged Hatchet Force choked the Ho Chi Minh Trail, enabling the U.S. Air Force to destroy more than 70 NVA trucks along with the supplies and troops they carried.

Illustration: Ralph Butler



that two M-60 tanks could have driven down them side by side without detection by airborne observers.

And, down those trails Ho Chi Minh's dedicated little charges moved everything from troops to nuts and bolts. Additionally there were numerous smaller trails, some of which grew overnight. The speed with which the NVA and the support personnel rebuilt bombed-out roads and continuously expanded the complex won the grudging admiration of Air Force personnel who flew over them, while amazing the MACV-SOG troops who photographed and monitored the trails from the ground.

Instead of popping anything that moved, Duke and the recon team he attached himself to that first night spent a lot of time ducking 60mm mortar fire and 12.7mm heavy machine gun slugs — weapons which the NVA took great pains in moving every few hours to avoid concentrated fire from the Hatchet Force perimeter. That night they were also probed several times in coordinated attacks by the NVA.

All too often during the night, the NVA probes would get close enough to throw dozens of Chicom grenades into the perimeter, sometimes tying several together and chucking the bunch into the good guys' position on one fling. "Whenever they threw one in, we'd return the favor by chucking one or more M-26s back at them," Duke recalled years later.

Fortunately, although the Chicom grenades went off with a big bang, they had a very poor fragmentation pattern. "I had several go off three or four feet from me," Duke said. "Usually, the noise was the worst part of the explosion." He noted how each night during Operation Nightcap the U.S. troops threw 60 to 80 U.S. grenades. Unfortunately, one of every four thrown failed to detonate.

Angels With Bombs

Of far greater concern were the 60mm mortar barrages. Each night "we took 100 or more hits inside our perimeter," Duke said.

Early on day two, the NVA mortarmen again demonstrated their skill when a 60mm mortar round scored a direct hit on the bunker housing all the officers. Fortunately, no one was seriously injured, but the command post was moved.

Even though it was only day two, "we knew we couldn't get off the hill," Duke noted. "On the other hand, we were in a fortified position. During the first day the indigs dug excellent foxholes and put tops on some of them. Although we were well-armed, we were expecting to get overrun at any time."

One major factor which prevented the Hatchet Force from being overrun was the tactical air-support backing them up. By day two the operatives had priority air coverage, identical to that given MACV-SOG recon teams when they ran missions into Laos. Once a team requested assets, any aircraft available, including F-4 Phantoms heading toward North Vietnam, were diverted to the recon team because they generally faced horrendous odds, such as a four, six or eight-man recon team vs. a company or more of NVA.

Among the air assets available as backup were gunships, Cobras, A-1E Skyraiders, fast movers like the F-4s, and Spectre C-130 gunships. At night, the Spectres (See "Spectres Over Laos," *SOF* May '88.) could circle above a team and provide ground support for several hours.

When needed, the crew's gunners could lock their four 7.62mm miniguns and two 20mm Vulcan cannons onto a ground target, coordinating the gunfire by linking the plane's computers with a strobe light held by a team member on the ground. A team member could direct the gunfire from that ship to within 5 feet of his position. In a

worst-case scenario, a team leader could call it on his own team's position.

Day two was not without its successes. Around noon one of the recon teams on the operation slipped away from the perimeter and caught an NVA officer and a handful of troops moving down the trail. Within seconds the small NVA component was eliminated in a short, furious burst of deadly fire. The recon team recovered all the papers from the whacked NVA officer, including his orders to attack the Hatchet Force.

By the end of day two, a pattern of enemy conduct was evolving: After an intense peppering of mortar fire, they'd probe the perimeter and lob in several dozen Chicom grenades. In between these attacks, resupplies of water, ammo, hand grenades, claymores and mortars were helicoptered inside the perimeter to the besieged troops.

Grenades At Close Quarters

By nightfall of day two, at least three American NCOs and several MACV-SOG troops were medevaced with wounds suffered during the NVA mortar attacks.

On the third night, Duke found himself remembering World War II movies he viewed as a child, where stealthy Japanese jungle squads got so close to U.S. troops that they chucked

"We Kicked Their Ass And Took Numbers For A Few Days."



grenades into their perimeters. "Before going to 'Nam, nothing I imagined was as bad as getting into a hand grenade fight with the NVA. It was unreal," he later told me.

That morning, when members from the recon team went down to the creek to get water, they observed some NVA troops but, in one of those odd little scenarios that unfold in combat, no shots were fired by any of the combatants because both sides were too surprised by the sudden appearance of their opponent to open fire — and both forces needed the water.

Again, during the second and third nights, the attacks would come in waves. On day three, a resupply chopper crashed inside the perimeter after taking several hits from NVA small-arms fire and from one of the 12.7mm machine-gun positions.

During those first three nights, the perimeter personnel saw no trucks on the highway and heard no trucks. Everyone was asking, "Where are the trucks?" Intelligence reports and prior recon teams in the area had reported nightly truck movement on this portion of the Ho Chi Minh Trail.

On the night of 22 March, "the same routine began, with the NVA chucking grenades at us, 60-millimeters were coming in and the 12.7-millimeter machine gun was firing over the bunkers," Duke recalled. "Finally, I saw a little glow down the road. A 'Yard told me, 'truck! truck!' Damned if he wasn't right. I could see truck lights but I couldn't hear them.

"What Charlie would do is hit us hard with mortars and so forth, and then drive the convoys past us, because we were all in the dirt. A couple of mortar positions were dropping rounds constantly. The incoming rounds forced us to keep our heads down, and the noise of the rounds detonating covered the engine sounds."

Reckless Recoilless

Duke got excited. "I grabbed the 90mm recoilless. In order to get the right trajectory I had to stand up on one of the bunkers. I took aim and blasted the sucker."

In his haste, Duke had forgotten to check the backblast area. Had he checked, he would have seen that a tree was about 10 feet behind him: The reverberation of the backblast blew him off the bunker.

"The CO of the Hatchet Force thought it was a sapper attack. I fired three more rounds and the tempo of the mortar rounds increased appreciably," Duke said. The 12.7s opened up and, in addition, a few 60mm rounds slammed into the force's perimeter: "The shit hit the fan."

But not before Duke hit an NVA truck with one 90mm round: "We opened fire with three '60s and fired along the road. We blazed them real good. We confirmed four trucks destroyed in the road with our starlight scope." There were bodies in the road. And then, just as suddenly as the action had escalated into a furious exchange between the hostile forces, all the incoming rounds stopped — suddenly.

There was an hour break in the action. The night-scope picked up a couple-hundred NVA troops and support personnel moving

trucks off the road. "We lined up the guns again," Duke recounted. "We fired all three '60s until the barrels got red and two of the guns finally jammed — we kicked ass. [But] we couldn't get off the hill for a body count." By then it was 0300 on 23 March.

The 12.7mm was really banging away at the eastern perimeter. Duke sent a Montagnard troop to the extreme north of the perimeter; he opened fire on the 12.7mm crew. "He fired an 18-round burst from his CAR-15 and ducked. The 12.7 opened up on his position and I nailed it with a round from the 90mm, silencing it," Duke said.

Terminal Arterial Blockage

Before sunrise the NVA again tried to clear the road. Now Duke and other troops in the Hatchet Force could hear more trucks.

Because many of the tactical air jockeys were so familiar with the area by now, the Hatchet Force personnel began calling in air strikes before the sun rose. "We called in some fast-movers along the road, and there were trucks stacking up out there," Duke said.

Finally the odds had shifted in favor of the Hatchet Force. They had broken the rhythm of the NVA attacks — they had broken the code and now they were breaking the enemy's back. But no one on the recon teams or the Hatchet Force realized just how successful they had been.

When the sun finally rose over the jungle, Uncle Sam's Air Force showed up in numbers and pounded the backed-up convoy into a twisted ribbon of smoking steel.

The pilots "told us that 70 trucks were backed up behind the three or four trucks we hit. There were secondary explosions throughout the night and into the morning. We think the trucks were carrying munitions because of the way they were cooking off. It made the whole operation worthwhile," Duke said.

After the mission, Abt told one soldier that although Operation Nightcap troops on the ground had taken a heavy pounding from the NVA, the men had hung in there and not left until they put a hurt on the enemy. Granted, it was a short-lived success, but it was a success nonetheless.

Duke's description of Operation Nightcap was a little more blunt: "We kicked their ass and took numbers for a few days."

And then, by the seventh day, the NVA began building new roads around the section of the Ho Chi Minh Trail complex blocked with burned hulks. The NVA attacks on the Hatchet Force never diminished as construction work increased. The Hatchet Force called in more air strikes on the construction teams and sites, then finally went home knowing they had destroyed tons of munitions and killed hundreds of Ho Chi Minh's finest.

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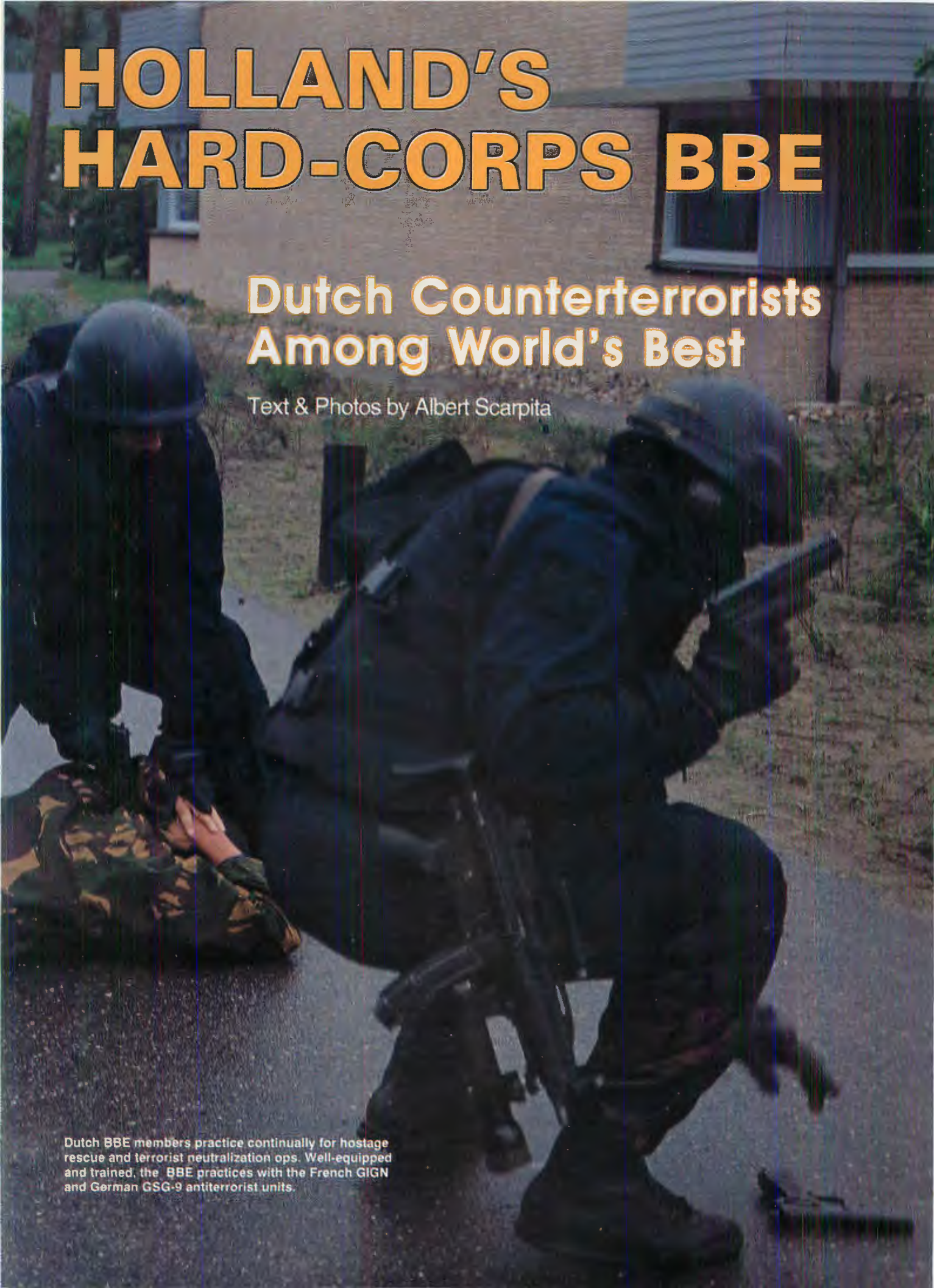
As in other European countries, citizens of the Netherlands were shocked by the explosion of political violence that shook the Continent in the early 1970s, especially the 1972 Munich outrage when Israeli athletes were massacred in the Bavarian capital's Olympic village. Responsibility for the tragedy at the Games was claimed by the Palestinian terrorist group "Black September," also culpable in numerous airline hijackings.

In view of such new — at the time — and deadly threats, the Dutch government decided to establish a special antiterrorist unit capable of intervention with the least possible delay, stressing flexibility and top-notch effectiveness. Scenarios escalating beyond the capabilities of traditional police and security organizations were to be their primary focus.

HOLLAND'S HARD-CORPS BBE

Dutch Counterterrorists Among World's Best

Text & Photos by Albert Scarpita



Dutch BBE members practice continually for hostage rescue and terrorist neutralization ops. Well-equipped and trained, the BBE practices with the French GIGN and German GSG-9 antiterrorist units.



A reduced team (usually five men) moves up to penetrate a space presumed occupied by enemy; point man carries shield.

Two decades later, the structure of the Dutch antiterrorist group, or *Bijzondere Bijstands Eenheid* (BBE), remains substantially the same based on coordination and operational integration of several military and civil units. The *Gendarmerie* and police are responsible for intelligence and planning of antiterrorist operations while the army is responsible for isolating and securing the area of operations.

Intervention itself, the final phase of such joint efforts, is conducted by a special company of the *Korps des Mariniers*, or Netherlands marine corps, under control of the BBE.

Minimum Notice

Ordinarily assigned to the Group of Marine Operational Units (GOEM), control of the special marine unit shifts in times of crisis to the Governmental Crisis Management Team to ensure maximum reaction speed. This team, under the Netherlands' Ministry of Justice, has shown itself quite effective on numerous occasions, the 1977 liberation of 80 hostages held on a train by South Moluccan terrorists being one notable example.

At present the BBE consists of 80 men based at Doorn and under command of a major. The unit breaks down as follows:

- A "command group" of 14 men; their mission is studying, planning, training and maintaining liaison with the Netherlands' marine corps.

- Two 33-man "operational sections," each commanded by a captain with an assistant and a medic; sections include six five-man teams, with each team working under a sergeant; two such teams consist of expert snipers.

Initiative & Alertness

Along with quick reaction, the BBE unit specializes in exact, delicate operations. One group known as the "reconnaissance team" is kept on 24-hour alert and is capable of intervening anywhere in the Netherlands within 90 minutes. Other groups of the alert section can provide alternate or backup intervention within six hours.

During these time frames the other BBE elements will have assembled at their base to either support the alert teams already in action, or to initiate separate missions,

No Lightweights

To gain admission into the BBE, a *Marinier* must have served at least two years in the corps, having passed various physical requirements in basic training; next, a three-day battery of specialized physical and psychological tests must be completed by all applicants.

The volunteers who surmount these criteria are then admitted to the BBE unit for a seven-day trial period; they will next

undergo an especially severe training intended to evaluate their resistances to fatigue and stress while eliminating any lukewarm candidates.

Following this weeding-out process, the successful BBE candidates undergo 18 weeks of training in disciplines ranging from martial arts to long-range precision shooting to the psychology of terrorists and how to neutralize them. Once this phase is complete, each volunteer is assigned to one of the sections where he completes his training by working closely with one of the cadre.

Intervention techniques mastered during this latter instructional phase include hostage rescue, building penetration and threat neutralization, as well as methods for gaining control of mobile targets in the air, on rails or in waterways.

Weapons training is also an integral factor in BBE training. At specialized training facilities the new unit members practice precision, selective and instinctive shooting, using a high-performance electronic control system. They also regularly explore and familiarize themselves with locales where terrorist activity would most likely occur.

The antiterrorist elite drill regularly at Schipol International Airport, refining distinct responses appropriate to each type of aircraft. For interventions on water or missions protecting coastal and maritime installations (underwater listening and surveillance posts, dikes, or oil platforms, for example) the Mariniers of the BBE have the effective help of the 7th Special Boat Squadron, a 24-man unit consisting of four intervention teams including marine combat swimmers, plus a command and naval reconnaissance element.

Foreign Cooperation

Techniques are constantly evolving to work more effectively with the police, the Gendarmerie, the various military intelligence services and also foreign authorities. To profit from the expertise of their foreign counterparts, the BBE practices regularly in neighboring Germany with the GSG-9 antiterrorist group, in Belgium with the *Groupe Diane*, and also with Spain's GEO units and the French GIGN and RAID groups.

In effect, the only elite European antiterrorist organization that seems wary of such joint exercises is the British SAS, whose commanders prefer to keep a low profile concerning the "men in black" and their training and techniques of employment.

For more than 20 years now, the Dutch BBE have shown they can do the job they were created to do and to be both a deterrent to terrorists and an important tactical asset in times of need.

This article originally appeared in the French publication RAIDS. It was translated into English by Col. Alex McColl.



The team member tasked with providing fire-support is armed with an H&K MP5 SD submachine gun with laser sight — note the double-magazine holder to facilitate rapid reloading.



BBE equipment consists of Kevlar helmets specially designed to accommodate headsets; ballistic assault vests with magazine pockets; a ballistic shield; 9mm H&K MP5 submachine gun with daytime sight, and the 9mm SIG-Sauer P226 automatic pistol.

ARMED & DANGEROUS

The *Mariniers* of the *Bijzondere Bistands Eenheid* (BBE) carry individual equipment similar to what other Western antiterrorist units use, especially similar to weaponry of the "Trevi Group," the international antiterrorist organization formed by the European Union countries along with the United States, Canada, Austria and Sweden.

One object of the Trevi Group has been the intergovernmental exchange of politico-criminal information and an alignment of operational procedures used by the member nations' intervention forces.

Men of the BBE are issued dark blue, flame-resistant Namex coveralls. These turn red-orange when exposed to high temperatures, so their wearer gives a visual alarm signal to others. Splinter-proof body armor vests are worn over the coveralls; these vests can be modified with ballistic plates that fit into special pockets with Velcro closures, and they also serve as assault vests with pockets for extra magazines, grenades and a radio. The BBE's helmets and Avon gas masks are made in Great Britain. Issued weapons include the 9mm H&K MP5-series submachine guns, either the short-barreled MP5K or the MP5 SD3 model with sound suppressor. Those BBE men who carry pistols use the 9mm SIG-Sauer P226 pistol or the 9mm Glock 17 service pistol, the latter being preferred for interventions under wet conditions as it is resistant to corrosion.

Snipers of the BBE are equipped with one or another of the following 7.62x51mm systems: the Austrian Steyr SSG 69 rifle with Kahles ZF four- or six-power scope; the Heckler & Koch PSG 1 rifle with Zeiss 6X42mm scope; or the Mauser SP 66 rifle with Zeiss Diavari ZA 1.5-6X42mm scope.

— A. S.

CLASSIC ARMS, CROATIAN COURAGE

SOF Tech Editor Trains Balkan Machine Gunners

Text & Photos by Peter G. Kokalis

With the first piercing wail of the air raid siren, I bolt upright in bed. Welcome to Bosnia-Herzegovina.

"What's going on?" I ask my roommate Tony Vucic, the translator assigned to me for the machine gun course I am giving the gunners of the King Tomislav Brigade in Tomislavgrad — 15 clicks from the front lines.

I am just one part of a substantial *Soldier Of Fortune* training team effort in support of the Croatian cause. "Should we get dressed and go downstairs?" I add.

"No," says Tony, an ethnic Croat who was an auditor in Australia until he left to aid Croatia in its fight for survival. "Not unless we hear incoming artillery shells." Since we are on the top floor of the Hotel Tomislav (a half-star facility), I figure that by the time we hear any incoming it will be too late. So, I just roll over and go back to sleep.

The Serbs (*Chetniks* to the Croatians) never shell the town that night. The next morning I'm back out in the field with my Croatian (*Ustashi* to the Serbs) machine gunners. Their weapons are as heterogeneous as their uniforms.

There is one World War II German MG34, two MG42s, three M53s, two

HK21s, three PRC M80s and one ZBvz30J. The latter is a light machine gun. All of the former are so-called General Purpose Machine Guns (GPMGs). Let's take a closer look at this diverse assemblage.

Universal MG

The MG34 was the world's first GPMG. Referred to as an *Einheitsmaschinengewehr* (universal machine gun) by the Wehrmacht, it was developed by Rheinmetall. It was supposed to serve in every role from squad automatic to antiaircraft gun. In practice, these types — which have prevailed to this day — have proven to be neither fish nor fowl, as they are too heavy for squad automatics (usually in excess of 22 pounds) and too light to provide adequate sustained fire. Including its complete system of mounts, optical sights and accessories, the MG34 is the most elaborate machine gun ever manufactured. The gun itself has well over 100 components. Its superb finish and substantial construction were deliberately intended to impress.

Method of operation is short recoil, assisted by a recoil booster at the muzzle and firing from the open-bolt position. The rotary bolthead remains locked to the barrel during the first portion of recoil, after which unlocking commences. Two

pairs of rollers on the bolthead are employed to rotate the bolthead. The inner pair of rollers is for locking the bolthead. The outer pair of rollers is used to unlock the bolthead toward the end of the recoil stroke.

All of this unnecessarily complex, but entirely typical of the Teutonic mentality, and the complete MG34 bolt group is a machinist's nightmare. The trigger mechanism, taken from the MG13, is equally complex, but removes the necessity of a separate selector control, as pressing the upper groove will provide semiautomatic fire, while pressing the lower groove will yield full-auto fire at a cyclic rate of about 900 rpm.

With the bipod, the MG34 weighs 26.75 pounds, without ammunition. Ammunition is fed from the left side by means of the still ubiquitous MG34/42 non-disintegrating 50-round metal belt. The caliber is 7.92x57mm — the standard German rifle/machine-gun round of both World War I and World War II. In combat, the MG34 demonstrated itself to be overly sensitive to adverse environmental conditions, especially dust. It requires a highly trained crew to keep this gun cranking. Halfway through the machine gun course, the front sight disappeared and we were forced to withdraw this weapon from the firing line since, unlike in Hollywood's fantasies, this is a most essential component on the battlefield.

Hitler's Zipper

Production of the MG34 proved to be tedious and never kept pace with demand. During the late 1930s, the Wehrmacht began a study to examine the application of stamped sheet-metal pressings to machine gun design. Opposed by established firearms manufacturers, a roller-locked design by the Johannes Grossfuss firm in Döbeln, Saxony (which had not previously made weapons), using a sheet-metal re-

SOF's Technical Editor Peter G. Kokalis adjusts windage and elevation zero on Chinese copy of famed Soviet PKM GPMG while 'Kiwi,' a New Zealander who joined the King Tomislav Brigade looking for adventure, observes.
Photo: Robert K. Brown





Truly an outstanding machine gun, the PRC Type 80, a copy of the famed Soviet PKM GPMG, weighs only 17.5 pounds and has no buffer system, yet the lack of perceived recoil is nothing short of amazing.

ceiver was submitted in 1937. After considerable testing and modification it was adopted in 1942 as the MG42. By the end of the war approximately 400,000 had been assembled.

In contrast to the handsomely finished milled forgings of the MG34, the MG42 — which is about 1 pound lighter — is conspicuous for its extensive use of stamped sheet metal and assembly by riveting, spot and fusion welding, brazing and other methods not requiring specialized skills. Components and accessories were fabricated by many subcontractors, but assembled by five manufacturers. Both of the specimens present in the machine gun course carried the manufacturers' code "cra" which indicated they were produced by Maget in Berlin. The M53 GMPG is the MG42 as produced by Cruena Zastava, Kragujevac, for the Yugoslav armed forces

and chambered for the original 7.92x57mm cartridge.

The method of operation is best described as short recoil, gas assisted and roller locked. Premature unlocking (i.e., before the barrel has completed its recoil and while chamber pressures are still murderous) has plagued the MG42 series since its inception. All of the Yugoslav M53s I examined and fired were fitted with a so-called rate-of-fire device, which was actually designed to inhibit premature unlocking. Inserted into the bolt body with its large end inside the curled ends of the ejector rod, this spring-loaded plunger forces the firing-pin housing forward and increases the resistance to unlocking while lowering the cyclic rate to about 850 rpm.

The actuator stud on top of the bolt body is not spring-loaded, and before you lower the top cover you must align the

feed arm over the actuator stud to avoid damaging these components. As the bolt reciprocates, the actuator stud (riding in the feed arm's channel) pivots the feed arm which operates a lever attached to the belt-feed slide. There are two sets of feed pawls connected to the slide. When one set is moving out and over a round in the belt, the other is pulling the belt inward. Dividing the belt load between two sets of pawls reduces stress on the feed mechanism and produces a smoother belt flow. This system has been much copied (FN MAG58, M60, SS77).

Because of its high rate of fire (for this reason it has upon occasion been referred to as "Hitler's Zipper") without the spring-loaded premature-unlocking device (approximately 1,300 rpm), gunners must exercise strict fire discipline. If three- to four-shot bursts are fired, the MG42/M53's hit potential is almost equivalent to machine guns with slower rates of fire. It remains to this day an excellent machine gun. Chambered for the 7.62x51mm

NATO round, it has been manufactured and/or adopted by Austria (MG42/59), West Germany (MG1/3 series), Spain, Italy, Portugal, Pakistan, Turkey, Iran, Denmark, Norway, Chile and the Sudan.

Six Decades New

The above guns I expected. But, a pristine ZBvz30J I did not. There's no way this gun could have survived six decades of service and still look as new as it did. It must have been cached in Cosmoline under a barn for the better portion of that time. The Yugoslav ("J" for *Jugoslavia*) model of the ZBvz30 can be instantly identified by its barrel, which has radial cooling fins only on the front portion and a thickened rear, covered with milled knurling.

A further development of the Czech caliber 7.92x57mm ZBvz26 Light Machine Gun (LMG), the ZBvz30 — which eventually led to the most famous magazine-fed LMG of all time, the British BREN — featured a re-designed bolt group and gas system. A gas regulator was added and the gas piston strengthened. The barrel nut assembly was also modified to prevent unlatching and subsequent loss of the barrel during firing. Other modifications reduced the weapon's insensitivity to diverse ammunition. The Czech manufacturer, Brno Zbrojovka, delivered 15,000 of these guns to Yugoslavia in 1937.

Designed by Vaclav Holec, the ZBvz30J is gas-operated, fires from the open-bolt position and has a 20-round detachable box-type magazine mounted over the receiver. The bolt locks in a recess in the top of the receiver. The gun can fire either single shots or full auto. The cyclic rate is about 500 rpm.

Robust and reliable; unfortunately, they don't make them like this anymore. The entire ZBvz26-30 series featured extensive use of machined components and was expensive to manufacture. More than two dozen countries used the ZBvz26-30.

All of the ammunition fired in these caliber 7.92x57mm machine guns was either of Yugoslav origin (typically headstamped " * 11 * 53" or with other 1950s date codes) or, strangely enough, of fairly recent Romanian manufacture (headstamped "22 74"), the latter with gray-lacquered steel cases and a solid red primer annulus and red case-mouth sealant.

More German MGs

Far less satisfactory is the caliber 7.62x51mm NATO Heckler & Koch HK21 GPMG. A member of the H&K system, operation is by means of roller-locked delayed blowback with firing from the closed-bolt position. The two I examined provided no indication as to the manufacturer. I can only speculate that they were probably manufactured in Pakistan.

Unless a belt with a starter tab is used, loading is clumsy since the gun must be



The world's first GPMG, the MG34, was the most elaborate machine gun ever manufactured. However, in combat it demonstrated itself to be overly sensitive to adverse environmental conditions, especially dust.

cocked and the first round placed on the feed sprocket, which is then rotated to the right until it locks. A curved cam slot on the bottom of the bolt engages an actuator on the feed mechanism. As the bolt moves rearward, the double sprockets are rotated and a new round positioned in the feedway.

adjustable gas regulators, blowback-operated machine guns offer no power reserve to deal with increased fouling associated with sustained fire and hence are designed to operate at maximum energy levels at all times. The end result is increased wear on both the gun and operator. In my expe-



MG42 remains to this day an excellent machine gun. Note 50-round "basket" belt carrier and spare barrel carrier.

The robust bipod can be mounted either in front of the feed mechanism for greater traverse or at the muzzle for greater hit probability. Both specimens were equipped with a 1,200-meter aperture drum sight. The HK21 can be fieldstripped in one minute and reassembled in 90 seconds. The heavy barrel has an excellent quick-change mechanism. The HK21 has 48% parts interchangeability with the G3. As the trigger group is identical to the G3 rifle's, the gun can be fired either full auto or semiautomatically.

Since the HK21 weighs only 17.4 pounds with the bipod, but empty, and has a cyclic rate of about 900 rpm, it is, without doubt, the most physically punishing machine gun you can fire. Furthermore, unlike gas-operated squad automatics with

rience, the HK21 will inevitably self-destruct within an unacceptably short time frame.

All of the 7.62x51mm NATO ammunition that was fired in the HK21s and the numerous G3s and FN FALs I observed while I was with the King Tomislav Brigade was headstamped "FLB" indicating manufacture by Fabrica de Munitiones "Frey Luis Beltran," Bhorgi, Argentina. Not too surprising, as all of the FN FALs I examined were of Argentine manufacture.

Chinese GPMGs

First introduced to the Soviet Army in 1961, the PK GPMG was eventually product-improved and lightened into the PKM (*Pulemet Kalashnikova Modernizirovanniy*) series. A quarter-century of fighting, from arid deserts to tropical jungles, has demonstrated it to be flawless, with the possible exception of an overly complex feed mechanism required



King Tomislav Brigade gunner armed with Czech ZBvz30J caliber 7.92x57mm Light Machine Gun — six decades and still fighting; Yugoslav model can be instantly identified by its barrel, which has radial cooling fins only on the front portion and a thickened rear covered with milled knurling.



King Tomislav Brigade gunners practice employment of the MG42/M53 GPMG from the shoulder of the assistant gunner for antiaircraft fire.

to accommodate a 100-year-old rimmed cartridge (7.62x54R) and SG43 Goryunov “pull out” links. Gas-operated and firing from the open-bolt position, the PKM has a rotary-locking bolt of the Kalashnikov type.

All three of the PKM-type machine guns that participated in the training cycle were brand-new and were manufactured

in the People’s Republic of China (The top covers were conspicuously marked with “CF” in a triangle over “M80” and followed by the serial number.). The PRC Type 80 GPMG is a further improved and lightened version of this highly regarded machine gun. Chambered for a full-size rifle cartridge, the Type 80 weighs only 17.5 pounds, empty, due in no small measure to its pinned and riveted sheet-metal receiver and the extensive use of sheet-metal stampings in other areas, especially the top cover and feed mechanism. Overall length of this weapon is 47.7 inches.

The adjustable gas regulator has three positions marked “1,” “2,” and “3.” To adjust the regulator, slip the rim of a 7.62x54R cartridge in the regulator jaws and, using it as a handle, rotate the regulator until the detent tab covers the number you wish to use. This sleeve-type regulator bleeds off excessive gas into the atmosphere and can affect the cyclic rate. When the weapon is clean and operated at the “1” setting, the cyclic rate is 650 rpm. If the “2” or “3” settings are used before serious fouling occurs, the cyclic rate can increase by as much as 150 rpm and decrease the life span of the reciprocating parts accordingly.

A non-adjustable sheet-metal bipod is attached to the gas tube directly in back of the gas regulator. It can be folded to the rear or forward (when the weapon is mounted on the tripod). Its location on the weapon is excellent as it permits the gunner to quickly engage flanking targets without seriously compromising accuracy potential.

Continued on page 66

GAYS IN THE MILITARY

Clinton Poised To Sell Out Combat Readiness

by James Brantley



Keith Meinhold was discharged for simply admitting to being gay, and is challenging military policy in court. Is Meinhold's case typical, or are the 1,500 or so people discharged each year for homosexual acts more representative of why gays are discharged? Photo: AP/Wide World

President Clinton's stated intention to allow homosexuals in the military invites a close look at some of the arguments, laws, facts and myths surrounding the issue.

Homosexual rights groups claim that homosexuals *already* comprise 10% of the military, that it has cost more than \$500 million in the last 10 years to remove homosexuals from service, that most NATO countries allow homosexuals in military service, and that military studies prove homosexuals are not a problem. They argue that the military successfully integrated blacks, women and men, and solved its drug problem, so the integrations of homosexuals should not present a problem either.

Homosexuals do not make up 10% of the military. *Military Law Review*, Vol. 131 (1991), presents extensive military data documenting the homosexual presence in the military at 3% to 5%.

General Colin Powell, the black chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, disputes the attempt at comparing integration of blacks and of homosexuals. Powell states that, "skin color is a benign, non-behavioral characteristic. Sexual orientation is perhaps the most profound of human behavioral characteristics. Comparison of the two is a convenient but invalid argument."

When President Truman issued his 1949 integration order, black units had already existed in the U.S. Army since the Civil War. It was their superb performances as soldiers along with a realization that there is no basic difference between blacks and whites that assured successful integration of blacks into the armed forces.

Before using women in the military as a success story to justify homosexual integration, one must first define if this was militarily successful or a politically correct success: Having almost 30,000 pregnant women unavailable for deployment when the Persian Gulf War started, then

sending another 1,200 pregnant women home from the war zone, can hardly be called a military success. A maze of dual physical standards, quotas and preferential treatment would hardly be needed for a group that could meet military requirements.

Military success in controlling drugs is based less on social plans and more on testing for drug use. The formula is simple: If you want to keep your job, you don't use drugs.

Dr. Judith Reisman, author of *Kinsey, Sex and Fraud*, said a Pentagon report on homosexuals Clinton quoted used flawed Kinsey data. Reisman also noted one person cited in the report, Dr. Vern Bulow, is apparently a pedophile. Dr. Bulow edits the *Journal of Pedophilia*, which reportedly quoted Dr. John Money as saying "adult/child sex is a viable activity." Money is also cited in the Pentagon report. The *Journal of Pedophilia* runs advertisements for the North American Man/Boy

Love Association.

The argument on the cost of ridding the military of homosexuals was based on a 1992 Government Accounting Office (GAO) report stating that the military spent \$500 million from 1980 to 1990 to rid itself of homosexuals. We could take the cost argument seriously only if we accepted the idea that funds shouldn't be expended investigating fraudulent enlistment and sodomy. It is interesting to note that over the same period covered by the GAO report *the military spent almost three times as much to treat AIDS-infected homosexual military personnel as it spent trying to kick them out.*

Citing a military medicine report, NBC News stated that 42% of the military people who are HIV-positive admit they were infected through homosexual acts. Such an admission to a doctor during an epidemiologic assessment interview is confidential and not forwarded to commanders for action under the Universal Code of Military Justice (UCMJ). HIV-infected military personnel can be retained on active duty until they reach 30% disability and are then discharged for care by the Department of Veterans Affairs. Department of Defense (DoD) records show the cost of caring for each HIV-positive military person was some \$200,000.

5% Of Troops, 42% of AIDS

Over the past 10 years the military has expended \$3 billion on AIDS-infected personnel, \$1.26 billion of which went to treat homosexuals. The fact that 5% of our military population (homosexuals) accounts for 42% of military AIDS cases is in itself a convincing argument to continue the current policy to exclude homosexuals.

Incredibly, homosexual and AIDS action groups are lobbying for an end to the HIV testing of military personnel, and for halting HIV testing as a requirement for enlistment. One reason we can get soldiers to put themselves at risk is their belief that they will be assisted by fellow soldiers when wounded and that field hospitals are there to treat their wounds. The presence of a high-risk HIV group in military units would bring about a fundamental change in this expectation, along with loss of confidence in the safety of military blood supplies.

Will a soldier who most likely has cuts and scrapes on his hands from normal field tasks, or who is even wounded himself, rush to the side of a homosexual soldier to stanch a spurting artery or apply a field compress? This same reluctance would be true if the wounded soldier were unknown to another soldier, if there were a reasonable chance he might be homosexual.

A good example of what the presence of people who are HIV-infected or in a high-risk group would do to unit cohesion is provided by basketball player Magic Johnson. Although there was little chance Johnson could infect another player, some teammates and other players in the National Basketball Association expressed reservations about playing with him. Basketball players from other countries threatened to boycott the Olympics if Magic were allowed to play — and this wasn't a blood-soaked battlefield. The loss of trust in fellow soldiers, in medical care and in the ability of leaders to resolve these issues could prove fatal for an army locked in battle.

Homosexuals In NATO

Even though these issues are of concern, some nations do allow homosexuals in their military services. Significantly, conscription is still used in many of these countries, so policies allowing homosexuals seem based as much on thwarting claims of homosexuality to avoid conscription as they do upon "human rights." Perhaps countries protected from foreign forces by a large American Army can better afford to experiment with social issues in their military services.

Although some foreign military services do allow homosexuals in their ranks, stringent rules on homosexual acts between

soldiers are strictly enforced in all of these foreign forces. Among NATO countries, only Britain, Italy, the United States and Turkey expel homosexuals. French homosexuals who convince physicians that service would be "psychologically punishing" to them can be excused from service. Germany allows homosexuals, but doesn't consider them suitable for senior positions. Canada opened its military to homosexuals in 1992 due to a lawsuit, while Australian resistance folded at the news that Clinton intended to allow homosexuality in U.S. forces.

Homosexuals entered the Dutch armed forces in 1974, but a recent report by C.J. Thuijsman of the Dutch navy states that discrimination and verbal abuse against homosexuals is still widespread. Some cases of physical assault were also mentioned. Thuijsman noted that "homosexuals of both sexes face an unfriendly military environment," adding many go to great lengths to stay in the closet. If the Dutch, the most liberal and arguably open-minded people in Europe, can't successfully integrate homosexuals, what would happen in our military?

Israel accepts homosexuals after a successful psychological exam, but doesn't allow them to hold security-related jobs. Homosexuals are banned from the U.S. military by a Department of Defense (DoD) policy directive, not by law. Military administrative discharge regulations allow discharges of admitted homosexuals based on this policy.

The UCMJ comprises federal laws passed by Congress that are applicable exclusively to military personnel. People caught soliciting for, or performing, homosexual acts are charged with a violation of Article 125 of the UCMJ (sodomy). Conviction carries a maximum sen-



If we give homosexual soldiers the they normally have sex with, can

tence of five years in prison and a dishonorable discharge. Realistically, commanders don't proceed with a court-martial unless the act was forced or with someone who was under age. Commanders consider sodomy to be sufficient evidence that the person is homosexual.

Military administrative discharge regulations directing that homosexuals be discharged from the service give commanders an option to allow someone accused of sodomy to choose a discharge rather than fighting sodomy charges at a court-martial. Because we don't see military prisons full of people convicted of sodomy, we can assume the majority of the 1,500 or so people who elect administrative discharge each year in lieu of court-martial for sodomy figured the military had a good case against them.

While discharges for homosexual acts far outweigh simple declarations of homosexuality, all that the press chooses to showcase in regard to the issue of homosexuals remaining in the military concerns exemplary gays, fighting their discharges just for admitting to being homosexual. The fact that public opinion is running in favor of allowing homosexuals in the military is no surprise in light of the slant the media has provided on the issue.

Isn't it odd that no homosexual group ran to the legal assistance of any of the 14 soldiers recently discharged for performing homosexual acts in a public restroom at Fort Hood, Texas? Are we surprised that the media didn't choose to point out that this was a far more accurate picture of homosexuality in the military than the high-profile exceptions they were currently showcasing?

A presidential order removing the ban on homosexuals in the military would remove both the DoD policy directive banning homosexuals, and remove homosexu-

ality from military regulations as a reason for administrative discharge. But only Congress can change or remove sodomy laws in the UCMJ.

Obviously, a presidential order removing the gay ban, and along with it the administrative discharge option, is going to leave homosexuals who are charged with sodomy in a very vulnerable position. Commanders could no longer fall back on administrative discharge procedures. Their only option would be to proceed with a court-martial. Not even the president can order, or legally pressure, military officials not to proceed in the prosecution of these laws. To do so would leave the president open to impeachment.

It might appear that removing the ban would still allow homosexuals in the services to declare their homosexuality as long as they weren't caught in any homosexual acts. However, two rulings make it plain that the courts consider homosexuality to be an implicit admission that the homosexual had violated Article 125 in the past and would do so in the future.

future to engage in homosexual conduct." The appeals court said that the military "need not be compelled to engage in sleuthing of soldier's personal relationships for evidence of homosexual conduct, in order to enforce its ban on homosexual acts."

In the case of *Woodward vs. U.S.*, the Circuit Court in Washington, D.C., ruled that a plaintiff's admission that he was homosexual by inclination, even though he denied any homosexual conduct, was sufficient to infer that he would engage in such acts. Sodomy is a violation of Article 125, whether on duty or off duty away from a military base. The courts don't believe that homosexuals would be celibate during their time in the service.

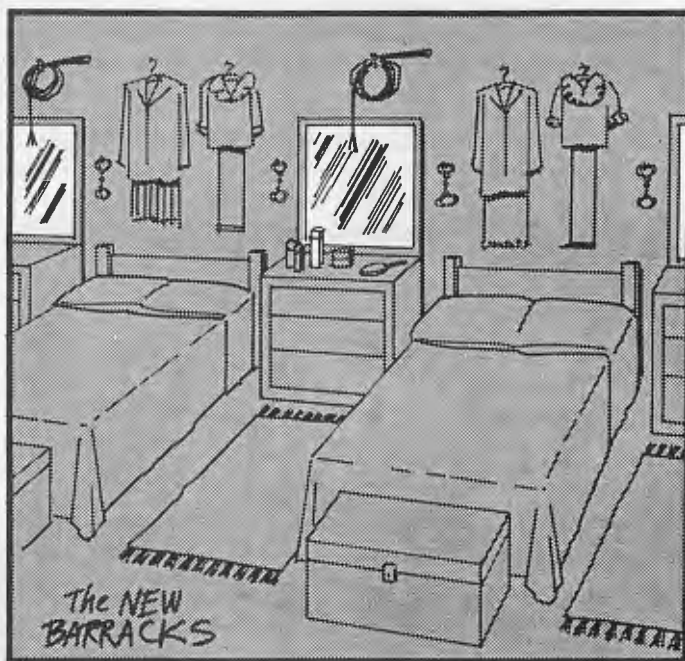
Do we have a president that believes they would? The battle for the viability of homosexuals in the armed forces is going to be fought over Article 125 of the UCMJ. It makes little sense to remove the ban only to see some 1,500 homosexuals who would have otherwise walked out the gate with an administrative discharge each year end up in jail instead. The Clinton administration is going to have to go before Congress and forcefully argue for the removal of Article 125 from the UCMJ. Such an argument by President Clinton might lose some of its force if someone has the temerity to ask why he never tried to remove Arkansas anti-sodomy laws during his 12 years as governor there.

If No Congressional Support – Then What?

Implicitly, any argument for the removal of Article 125 would have a position that sodomy among our troops is acceptable. Congress, however, apparently doesn't find this defensible. According to the 14 December 1992 *Air Force Times*, congressional leaders have warned President Clinton that he doesn't have enough votes in Congress to repeal Article 125.

Even Clinton's proposal just to remove the gay ban has little support in Congress. When Congresswoman Patricia Schroeder (D-Colo.) tried to muster congressional support in 1992 to remove the ban only, she gathered fewer than 100 supporters.

One can only speculate on what could come next if homosexuals gained legal status in our armed forces. Perhaps some insight can be provided by examining what other particular groups have received in the military, along with the current goals



In *Ben-Shalom vs. Marsh*, the U.S. Supreme Court denied the appeal of a woman discharged for admitting she was a homosexual. In so doing, the justices backed an appeals court ruling that "her admission of homosexuality was compelling evidence that she has in the past and is likely in the

opportunity to share rooms with people we deny that right to heterosexual soldiers?



of homosexuals in civilian life.

Would the military have to address concerns on establishing recruitment goals for homosexuals, or a need for positive role models in the form of gay and lesbian generals, sex-change surgery (and then, perhaps a change of MOS if it were an infantry "man" who received the operation), artificial insemination for lesbians, or spousal status and pay allowances for the "domestic partners" of homosexuals?

Many municipalities, including Washington, D.C., already give same-sex "domestic partners" of homosexual employees the same spousal benefits that married couples get. If this were allowed in the military, it would open up the full range of military benefits, such as free medical treatment, to the people homosexuals choose as domestic partners. Would this portend another \$1.26 billion expense to the military budget to treat AIDS-infected gay "spouses"?

Will chaplains for religions that consider homosexuality an abomination be given the option of either accepting homosexuals, or of not having their religion represented in the military any longer? Will people previously discharged for homosexuality be allowed to return to the military, or will some kind of compensation be provided?

How do we sort out living arrangements? Do we mix homosexuals and heterosexuals together in the same living quarters, or do we keep them separate, as we currently separate men and women? Experience indicates young heterosexual men are the most hostile group toward homosexuals. Can we force them into proximity with homosexuals, to share their most intimate of living accommodations, with-

out expecting problems? Sexual orientation is a significant fundamental difference between homosexuals and heterosexuals. In close proximity, these differences would not vanish under executive order, but would be aggravated and accentuated. Would it be better to billet heterosexuals and homosexuals in different rooms? If we give homosexual soldiers the opportunity to share rooms with people they normally have sex with, can we deny that right to heterosexual soldiers?

Could It Be Made To Work?

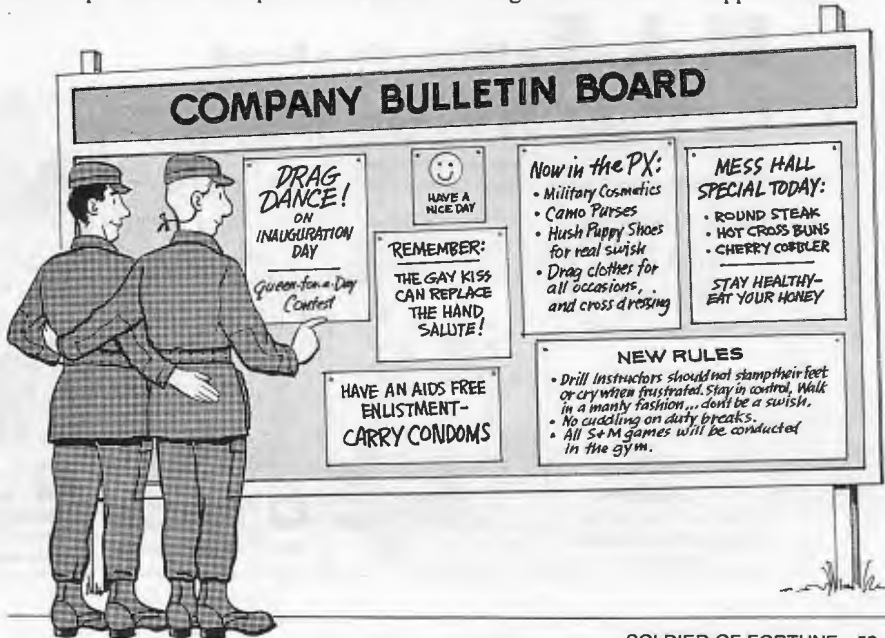
It will be difficult for homosexuals to join in the worldwide military mission of the U.S. armed forces, because homosexuality is illegal in some 55 countries: Homosexuals couldn't be assigned missions in those countries. Even half the states within the United States have laws against sodomy. Can the military assignment system legally, or ethically, assign troops whose normal sexual practice is sodomy to states which outlaw such practices?

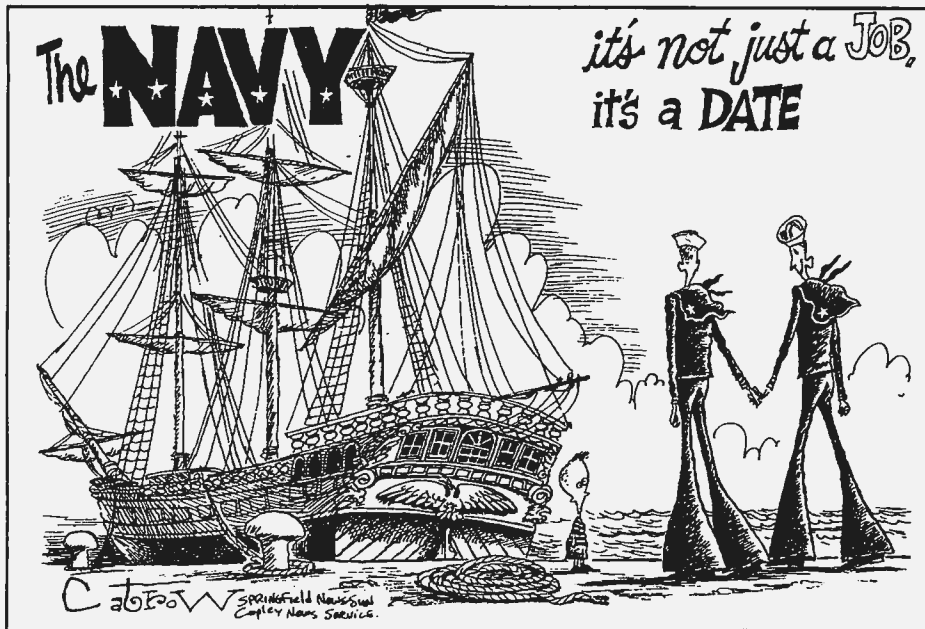
If the presence of homosexuals in the military is allowed, there is no doubt that all troops would be required to attend

equal-opportunity and sensitivity training regarding homosexuals, just as they are currently required to attend similar training regarding women. It's not inconceivable to believe that the military would have a military-wide "Gay Pride Week" to educate personnel on achievements of homosexuals, just as they currently have a Black History Month, Asian Heritage Week and activities for other minorities. Could commanders direct that homosexuals refrain from displays of their sexuality, and not dance together at base clubs or show affection toward their same-sex dates?

Even if all the other legal, administrative and morale problems were solved, all homosexuals who enlisted or re-enlisted prior to any removal of the ban would still be in violation of Article 83 of the UCMJ (fraudulent enlistment): All were asked if they were homosexual at the time they enlisted or re-enlisted. I suppose Clinton could fix this with a blanket pardon, but would all the people who lied about drug use, criminal records, and pre-existing medical conditions want some similar consideration too?

Referring to Clinton's intention to remove the gay ban, Charles Moskos, a military sociologist at Northwestern University said, "it was just about the worst thing for him to do. I see no up side to this for him." All of our military leaders are opposed to allowing homosexuals in the military, as are a solid block of veterans groups. Surveys of the troops indicate they are in favor of retaining the ban, and in Congress there is little support to lift it.





President Clinton is fortunate in that the need to remove Article 125 from the books will provide a perfect delaying tactic to avoid issuing an immediate order lifting the ban.

Clinton might hope that ordering the attorney general not to contest any lawsuits challenging the homosexual ban would achieve his intended goal. The problem he would have there, however, involves the previous court rulings that homosexuality is "compelling evidence" that a person has broken and will break military sodomy laws in the future. Can a president avoid barring people from the military whom the courts have already ruled will break military law? Would the courts fail to take these previous "compelling evidence" rulings into consideration prior to ruling on an order to lift the gay ban?

Article 125 again reveals itself as being pivotal to the issue, and there appears little chance that Congress would strike it down. It is unfortunate that a new president, who already has a record subject to

question in regard to draft avoidance, has chosen to start out his term of office by attempting to face down both the military and Congress on an issue both oppose. It presents a lose-lose situation for President Clinton. Any failed attempt to resolve the issue with Congress early in his presidency would mean lost credibility in efforts to get other legislation through. Failure to take timely action to fulfill his campaign promise will bring down the wrath of the gay lobby.

The military is going through one of its most dramatic reductions in force ever, which is causing a great deal of insecurity among military professionals who don't even know how long they'll remain employed. The issue of women in combat has caused additional trauma. Now America's military establishment is besieged with a campaign to admit homosexuals to military service.

Politicians should remember that decisions regarding the social makeup of the military should not be based on how it might be made to work in a laboratory-

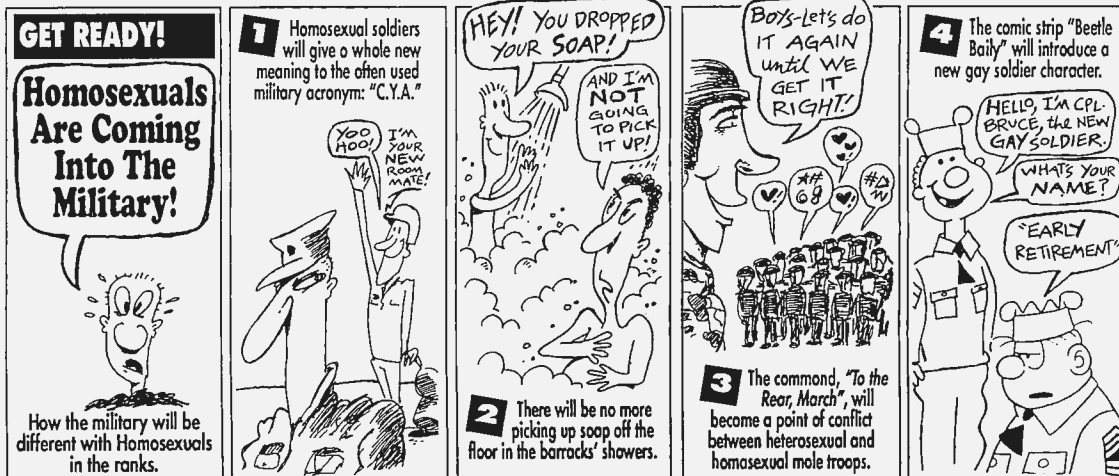
like setting among select volunteers sitting in peacetime stateside garrisons. Military forces exist to fulfill a mission: That mission is to fight and win wars in the national interest. Nothing should even be considered that will compromise that ability.

Politicians should remember that decisions regarding social makeup of the military should not be based on how they might work among volunteers sitting in peacetime garrisons stateside. These decisions should be based on how they would affect a wartime army of draftees engaged in combat overseas.

An engineering consultant on aircraft safety systems, James Brantley is a graduate of the State University of New York, a 20-year USAF veteran and a Vietnam vet with nearly a decade in the Asian theater. His article "Dereliction of Duty" in the January 1993 SOF explored the issue of women in the U.S. combat arms. The author invites feedback. His Compuserve address is 76170,3610. His GENIE address is J.Brantley3. ✕

M.L.E. (Military Life in Europe)

By Charles Kaufman



Liberal Press Corps Champions Issue It Doesn't Understand

by Col. David Hackworth

War proves that when it comes to telling the military's story, most of our media is out of step with the drumbeat.

Now the press corps is writing about the gays-in-the-military issue. Sad to say, their approach is exactly the same as the reportage from Desert Storm and from the Balkans: "Wham, bam, thank you ma'am" and light on the homework. Their coverage of this critical issue has been high on emotions, loose with facts and simplistic clichés, and easy on hard-digging scientific investigation.

Since Clinton announced at his 11 November 1992 press conference that he would lift the gay ban, I have collected every article run in leading U.S. newspapers concerning this issue. Those reporters who have beat the drum to lift the ban run 43 to six against those who favor no change. Most of the 43 anti-ban journalists have never served in the U.S. military and almost all bring to their stories a neo-liberal civil rights orientation and a pro-gay bias.

Few reporters have recently spent one day or night in a barracks, a foxhole, a military aircraft or combat ship — or have at least talked to the warriors who do. Most don't look at the armed forces as a unique and complicated outfit, but more as a tradition-bound discriminatory institution that has deprived a minority group of its rights and must be re-educated to the ways of the 1990s. Had they served down in the trenches or talked to the grunts, they'd know for openers that the U.S. military has been based on discrimination since Washington paddled across the Delaware. It's all so undemocratic: You can't get in if you're too fat, too small, too tall, too dumb, mentally or physically deficient or don't have a high school education. It ain't an equal opportunity employer either, and it's almost as democratic as a federal prison must seem to its inmates.

An objective and fair-minded press corps would have gone "up front," interviewed the company commanders and NCOs and asked: *What would lifting the ban do to their unit's military readiness?* Once these leaders, who train and lead our forces on the battlefield, told about the feelings of their soldiers, the inevitable fights between gays and straights, the



Author (on left) poses with Croat militiaman who knocked out Yugoslav army T-55 in background using the highly effective MILAN antitank missile. Photo: courtesy author

downtime, expense and red tape of punishment and court-martials, the breakdown in discipline and order and how they and their subordinate leaders wouldn't be sharpening combat readiness but instead be putting down barracks riots, the media would get the word that this is not a civil rights matter, but a military readiness issue.

They'd find out that getting into our all-volunteer military is almost as tough as making the U.S. Olympic Team. Desert Storm — and now operations in Somalia — proved that such relentless discrimination and high standards produce a team that can strike hard, win fast and pay a small price where it's important: on the casualty lists.

Holding our military to the highest standards insures that our force is fit to fight and can fight to win. The military's objective has not changed since General Douglas MacArthur said at West Point in 1962: *"Through all this welter of [social] change and development, your mission remains fixed, determined, inviolable — it is to win our wars. Everything else in your professional career is but corollary to this vital dedication. All other public purposes, all other public projects, all other public needs, great or small, will find others for their accomplishment; but you are the ones who are trained to fight; yours is the profession of arms."*

I concluded after Desert Shield/Storm that most of the almost 1,500-member

American press corps on assignment there couldn't tell a tank from a turtle, and only a score or so were qualified to report on military matters. Most were ill-prepared for their war reporting task, and worse, many arrogantly refused to learn even the basics like, "this is a squad," "that is a squadron," and as CNN's Charles Jaco showed the world, "how not to put on a gas mask."

David Evans (*Chicago Tribune* Desert Storm war correspondent), a retired Marine, and I were besieged in the desert by amateur military reporters asking questions the greenest recruit would know and often pathetically begging for a story to feed to a hungry editor. We concluded that during the next large military operation, if we opened a soldier school for these sophomores, we could retire to the fat of the land after the conflict.

The press's collective wisdom overflowed into America's living rooms each night during the Storm's televised press conferences. Jolly Gen. Tom — "I'd like to diagram that sentence" — Kelly turned most of their questions into a laugh-in, while tying the media in knots with their own dumb rhetoric. Meanwhile, the American public cringed at the press's ignorance and lack of professionalism, and protested their inability to report the war. Our press corps provided little comfort to the

Continued on page 68

BOMBING FOR BAMBI

Animal Terrorists Strike Major U.S. Research Lab

by James McQuaid

In the film *The Omega Man*, Charlton Heston struggles against those who would destroy the cure for a plague-stricken world.

Today, the battle portrayed in that science fiction film is underway in deadly earnest. Lifesaving scientific research is reeling under the attacks of terrorists from the extremist animal rights movement. In a decade rife with AIDS, drug-resistant tuberculosis and mutating super-viruses, this issue will directly affect you and your family as much as any other public policy concern.

On 28 February 1992, the Animal Liberation Front (ALF) firebombed the offices of two Michigan State University researchers and vandalized a mink research laboratory on the MSU campus in East Lansing, Michigan. The cost of the damage at Anthony Hall, where the offices were located, exceeded \$100,000; cost to the public from the lab was estimated at another \$25,000. More importantly, more than 30 years' primary research data went up in smoke.

This attack was not unique, but is typical of a nationwide campaign of violence and intimidation being carried out by the ALF. Today the ALF is rated by the U.S. Office of Technology Assessment as "one of the ten most dangerous terrorist organizations" and is a classic example of a single-issue terrorist group.

It has not been previously reported, but ALF's operation against MSU had been initiated during the year preceding the firebombing. In the fall of 1991, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) launched recruitment actions aimed at MSU students. Little more than a sanitized front for the ALF, PETA often announces ALF attacks (sometimes supplying videotaped coverage) at about the same time such attacks are detected.



Professor Richard Aulerich stands in the midst of destruction caused by a fire set by ALF terrorists in February 1992. Aulerich lost research records and materials accumulated over the last 30 years. Photo: courtesy MSU

In the beauty that is autumn on the MSU campus, few students responded to PETA's call, judging their time better spent otherwise. The recruitment campaign, however, foretold the coming attack. In fact, PETA recruitment efforts can now be seen to provide an important link between PETA and an eventual terrorist attack.

Recruitments took the form of public service announcements on MSU's student radio station (88.9 FM, "The Impact"). Free information from PETA was offered to anyone who wrote in with their name and address. Station personnel were unaware of PETA's links to terrorism and student DJs would not have been alerted by the innocuous-sounding message.

Subsequent to the bombing, the station quit running the announcements and went so far as to actually air a fair and impartial debate on hunting and gun owners' rights.

Last fall, student DJs were heard disparaging "those animal rights nuts." Interestingly (in light of this case), Ingrid Newkirk, a PETA co-founder, has little good to say about MSU students. In June she remarked to a reporter that they are too ignorant or "too conservative" (a slam in her crowd) to know what PETA is doing.

Remarkably, the PETA radio spots did not address animal rights issues or animals at all. Instead, the ads were environmental in nature. Specifically, they focused on pollution of the Great Lakes by chlorine, PCBs and dioxin contamination derived from household chemicals, seepage from landfills, etc. This is significant because the research data that the ALF presumably took pains to deliberately destroy prior to setting off the bomb contained studies of wild mink and otters in the Great Lakes region. The population of these carnivores is declining; this is an



Ironically, Dr. Karen Chou was doing research on reducing the use of animals in medical research when ALF terrorists firebombed an adjoining office and destroyed much of hers as well. Photo: courtesy MSU

important fact because mink have only one breeding season per year and their reproduction rate is very sensitive to environmental contaminants (water quality).

Other data destroyed related to the effects that chemicals commonly found in landfills have on mink reproduction. Which begs the question: Would the rabidly anti-fur PETA rather see populations of these species wiped out or so reduced that they couldn't be managed for the benefit and enjoyment of humans? In the *MSU News Bulletin* of 5 March 1992, published for faculty and staff, toxicology researcher Dr. Karen Chou wrote: "I want people who give to PETA to understand that their money is doing the opposite of what they intend."

It is quite possible that students recruited by PETA were subsequently used to surveil the offices and facilities targeted for destruction. We do know that extensive site surveillance is a part of the ALF's operational doctrine, especially when they haven't infiltrated by way of employment. In this regard they are much like the Irish Republican Army. Following the surveillance, an experienced hit team was brought in from out of state (in this case possibly California).

PETA issued a news release on the day of the attack describing the firebombing as the first ALF action in Michigan and hinting at more to come. The statement charged that Professor Richard Aulerich "killed thousands of minks in painful and scientifically worthless experiments." The portion of PETA/ALF's communiqué addressing treatment of the animals was false. It was also completely wrong about the value of the research. PETA must have known this, as evidenced by focusing on the water quality issue in their recruitment effort. Their attempt at disinformation on this particular point is puzzling.

Michigan State University, long a strong agricultural school, has been carrying on mink research since the 1940s. Originally this was directed toward finding answers to problems confronting the mink ranch industry. Since then the work

has been used to help develop water quality standards for humans. Today, benefits of the research extend to studies of hereditary deafness in humans and to the habitat of wild mink. MSU has also made giant contributions to medical science (and the lives of people) in other areas requiring laboratory animal research. For example, the cancer fighting drug Cisplatin was only recognized as such after tests were conducted at MSU.

Among other medical benefits of animal research at MSU have been the development of previously unknown heart sur-

The handbill below is a verbatim copy of an ALF recruitment flyer. We have only corrected misspellings and deleted addresses and last names of the "named" parties.

gery techniques — techniques that are saving lives today. This is underscored by the fact that the mid-Michigan chapter of the Incurably Ill for Animal Research has posted a \$5,000 reward for information in the firebombing case. One of the reasons that members of the ALF are every bit real terrorists is that innocent people are actually dying (and have died) because of the research being postponed, set back or outright destroyed by extremists. The ALF concedes this point and simply responds that they don't care.

As documented in the October 1992 *Soldier Of Fortune* ("Animal Crackers" by Galen Geer), a disproportionate number of medical research facilities targeted by animal rights activists are those which are vital to military medicine. In other cases, these people want to shut down those facilities developing antidotes to biological weapons being created by the host of hostile countries (Libya, Iraq, North Korea, Iran, etc.). This activity is not inconsistent with the undertakings of an enemy intelligence agency.

Investigations into the terrorist strike at MSU have been extremely well-handled. There has been a high degree of coordina-

Continued on page 66

Animal Liberation Front

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RUGER'S BARGAIN

Continued from page 43

with the Hornady XTP bullet, and finally some commercial 230-grain Full Metal Jacket ammunition of 1930s vintage (headstamped "REM-UMC 45 AUTO").

Because the KP90DC's barrel sits relatively high above the shooter's hand, there is considerable muzzle whip. However, the pistol's weight is sufficient to moderate perceived recoil to a large extent. I received no hammer bite, even though I fired from the Weaver hold and grasped the grip frame as high as possible. The ejection pattern is quite violent and varies from 18 to 20 feet to the right.

I am not interested in a fighting handgun's "intrinsic" accuracy potential. I know of no gunfight where the opponents' weapons were mounted in a Ransom rest. A weapon's far more significant "practical" accuracy potential cannot be determined in such a device, as the all-important handling aspects that are a result of human engineering cannot be measured so easily.

At 7 yards — the maximum distance at which the vast majority of gunfights with handguns take place — when fired from the two-handed Weaver position, the KP90DC will place all shots fired single-action into a 2-inch group. Because of its excellent 7-pound, double-action trigger pull weight, shots fired in this manner will

group with only slightly larger dispersion.

I would like to see some further rounding of sharp edges on the rear sight, and decocking levers for those of us who practice "tap, rack, bang" drills.

This is a large, service-type pistol. It is not easily concealable. It should, nevertheless, appeal to a large audience as it provides outstanding reliability at reasonable cost in a traditional large caliber of proven effectiveness. Suggested retail price of the KP90DC is \$488.65 and this includes two magazines and a sturdy plastic storage box with padlock and key.

During the 1920s, Chicago gangsters believed that lead bullets boiled in onion water and then rubbed with garlic would promote gangrene, failing an outright kill. While today most of us know better, gun writers — most of whom are nothing more than advanced hobbyists — still tout supposedly magic bullets like Corbon, MagSafe, Glaser safety slugs and Federal's Hydra-Shok.

It's really quite simple. Penetration is, without doubt, the most important single parameter. The bullet must penetrate deeply enough to crush, cut and break through the human body's vital structures and organs.

Any bullet not capable of penetrating at least 12 inches of soft tissue is not acceptable for a gunfight. The capacity to penetrate up to 20 inches is highly desirable. Once we've obtained the required penetration, the handgun bullet that

makes the biggest hole will do the most damage.

The best starting point for a handgun is obviously the .45 ACP envelope. Ammunition manufacturers have finally started to get the message with regard to wound ballistics, and there is currently some very effective ammunition available in this caliber.

Newest and most exciting is Winchester's Black Talon. The lead core of the bullet is locked into place with a reverse-tapered jacket. The Black Talon's jacket wraps completely around the bullet's nose and into the cavity, providing the most reliable functioning of any hollow point to date. Retaining virtually 100% of its original weight, this design allows excellent penetration and expansion, even through barriers such as heavy cloth, wallboard, plywood and glass.

Typically, caliber .45 ACP Black Talon bullets will penetrate more than 13 inches of soft tissue while expanding up to about .77 caliber. In addition, the characteristic six-point expansion of both core and jacket results in razor-sharp edges to further slice and dice through human vital structures and organs.

However, not far behind the Black Talon in wound ballistics potential are the Winchester 230-grain JHP and the Black Hills load employing the Hornady 230-grain XTP bullet. All three of these 230-grain loads are excellent and essentially equal in effectiveness. ✕

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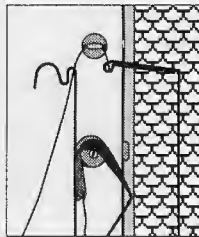
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ANIMAL TERRORISTS

Continued from page 63

tion required between a variety of agencies. Those involved so far include the FBI, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms (brought in because they have jurisdiction in firebombing incidents), the Michigan State Police, MSU's Department of Public Safety and state and local law-enforcement agencies from states other than Michigan.

More than 150 people, most of them students and faculty, have been interviewed. A local search warrant and several served in other states helped pull together revealing arson evidence. Subsequently, a secret federal grand jury was convened and since then the leaders of PETA have become the focus of the inquiry into the ALF attack.

By early June 1992, PETA founders Alex Pacheco and Ingrid Newkirk had been subpoenaed to appear before the grand jury. They were ordered to submit fingerprints, pictures and handwriting samples by early July. Since July, little has been published concerning the grand jury's activities.

Unfortunately, the history of PETA/ALF intelligence activities is that of a terribly effective apparatus. By using the Freedom of Information Act and the Public Information Act, they have been able

to acquire copies of blueprints of facilities they wish to target. They also regularly obtain extensive material from the government regarding funding and grant information.

More ominously, a pattern of activity has emerged indicating that intimidation tactics are becoming more widespread. Individuals engaged in medical research are now being targeted. These hapless people find their personal lives systematically sabotaged and disrupted. Many researchers have even been subject to death threats.

In the useful article "Battling the Animal Liberation Front" appearing in the September 1990 issue of *The Police Chief*, some disturbing events are reviewed. Assistant Chief Harry Hueston II reports that police and security operations were extensively probed and surveilled at the University of Arizona. In that case, the ALF was making good on a year-old promise to return. The terrorists moved in and around the research areas in vehicles well-equipped with radios and police band scanners. They sought to observe police reactions to various situations. One ALF tactic, of course, is to generate a police call away from the event location.

The importance of the work being put at risk by the ALF and their comrades should not be underestimated. Literally millions of lives hang in the balance. Cures for AIDS, various cancers, heart disease and other killer plagues are within sight

and can likely be found within our lifetimes, but only if medical research is vigorously continued. The success of such critical work must not become dependent on the whims of a vocal minority operating outside the democratic process.

As Dr. Christine Williams, Michigan State's director of University Laboratory Animal Resources, observed of the terrorism, "It's a hell of a way for a civilized society to come to conclusions about the value of research for the benefit of people and animals. I'd hope that we'd not let this type of behavior, violence and property destruction influence what we'd hope would be a rational decision-making process." She and her colleagues at MSU have bravely spoken out. They have done so realizing they may be further endangering their own lives, because they are keenly aware of the magnitude of the stakes for the lives of so many others.

James McQuaid designed the detailed combat simulation Central America: America's Backyard War and has written extensively on covert operations topics.

CROATIAN GUNS

Continued from page 55

The most distinctive characteristic of any ground version of the PK machine gun is its skeletonized buttstock, which in

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1967 also appeared on the Dragunov sniper rifle. Russian PK buttstocks are fabricated from wood laminate material. The Type 80 stock is also of laminate, but painted black. There is a folding butt strap and butt trap compartment containing a cleaning kit. These are obviously export models, as the selector is marked "FIRE."

At only 17.5 pounds and with no buffer system of any kind, the lack of perceived recoil is nothing short of amazing. If bursts are kept to three or four shots, the muzzle climb is negligible. The accuracy potential when fired from the tripod is more than adequate out to its effective range of approximately 800 meters (however, hit probability at this range is only 30%). The handling characteristics are excellent with a consequence of exceptionally high hit probability in the hands of experienced operators (At 100 meters, the chances of hitting a moving, man-sized target in the open with a short burst are better than 80%). This is truly an outstanding machine gun. All of the ammunition I encountered for the Type 80 GPMG was headstamped with Arabic script and appeared to be of either Egyptian or Iraqi manufacture. With this odd mélange of machine guns assembled on the firing line, instruction during the intensive three-day and night course commenced with a detailed explanation of the important concepts of machine gun employment, such as the cone of fire, the beaten zone, and

firing from enfilade. Fire discipline was discussed and the gunners were instructed to limit burst sequences to three or four rounds.

The idiosyncrasies of each of the above weapons systems were explained. For example, the MG42/M53 should be rolled slightly to the right during loading to prevent the belt from slipping out of the feedway before the top cover is closed. Also, the MG42/M53's bipod must be planted firmly in the ground, and then the gun must be pulled to the rear to prevent the bipod from collapsing forward during burst fire. Blindfolded disassembly/reassembly drills were conducted, as it is essential that gunners be able fieldstrip their weapons in the dark. To the best of my ability, all of the weapons were zeroed before we began the actual course of fire.

Machine guns of this type should be fired only from the prone position behind cover and concealment, and mounted on the bipod. The gunner's body should be directly in line with the barrel's axis to absorb as much recoil as possible. Bipod-mounted machine guns should never be fired as though they are rifles, with the operator's body at an oblique angle to the bore's axis. I teach no other positions. Gunners trained by me would have to go to the movies to find out about such nonsense as the hip assault position. The sights are also on the gun for a very good reason — so you can hit the target. They should

always be used. With these principles in mind, the Tomislav gunners were taken through endless run-and-shoot drills, patrolling exercises and immediate response exercises, as well as night firing and firing from behind natural and man-made cover. They were taught proper squad-automatic tactics during hasty ambushes and the importance of limit stakes in "L" ambushes. They also practiced employment of the MG42/M53 GPMG from the shoulder of the assistant gunner for antiaircraft fire.

Croatia has severe logistics problems. They obtain weapons and munitions from wherever they can. I was issued a Yugoslav M70B1 rifle with a rigid buttstock (folding stocks are for rhinestone cowboys) during my stay with the King Tomislav Brigade. It is one of the best of the Kalashnikov types, as its receiver body is fabricated from sheet metal that is 50% thicker (1.5mm instead of 1mm) than that employed by all other manufacturers of AKM-type rifles. However, the ammunition I fired through this rifle carried a wild mixture of headstamps indicating origin from no less than five different sources: Bulgaria, Romania, Poland, Yugoslavia and China.

What they lacked in logistics, the Tomislav gunners made up for in enthusiasm, dedication and performance. I have no doubt they will, as a direct consequence of their training in machine gun employment, drive up Serbia's butcher bill. ✕

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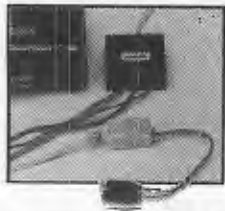
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AL MAR

Continued from page 29

behind a legacy of performance and loyalty surpassed by few. His friends honor his memory even as his enemies rejoice in his passing.

"He was a warrior who would want us to honor him by getting on with the business of living," Ann Mar said of her husband. His endowment to the industry, Al Mar Knives, will continue in business, as Al would have wanted.

And so *Soldier Of Fortune* bids farewell to one of its closest allies and supporters. Sleep well, old friend, sleep well.

A close friend of Al Mar, Contributing Editor Greg Walker conducted SOF's first interview with Mar in our December 1985 issue. ✕

LIBERAL PRESS

Continued from page 61

public — whose kids were leaning forward in their sandy foxholes — that they had the ability, and in some cases the integrity, to get it right and tell it straight.

I recently spent four weeks covering the Balkan war for *Newsweek*. Again, as in the desert, there were those gallant few reporters up front trying to dig out the real story. But the vast majority of the U.S. press corps was bellied up to the bar, purloining secondhand copy, listening to the BBC for a breaking lead and staying as far from the point-of-the-bayonet end of the story as possible. As in the desert, most had missed what the nature of the war was all about. Their copy seemed always the same: "There was heavy fighting today in Sarajevo ..."

A large majority of the Desert Storm, Balkans and pro-gay press corps have proven that they don't understand the profession of arms. Through their lopsided, badly researched stories, they have provided the well-organized gay leadership and its liberal supporters with tons of false ammo, which ironically since Clinton's Veterans Day speech they've been shooting in heavy bursts.

Through this propaganda barrage, which the American people refuse to accept (a recent *Newsweek* poll showed that 61% think Clinton should delay his promise to lift restrictions on gays), the Pentagon remains silent, refusing to launch a counter-attack against the misrepresentations. It seems to hope the campaign of half-truths and tired chestnuts ("Black and gay discrimination is the same"; "foreign armies have gays so why don't we"; "gays aren't security risks"; and "the armed forces is just a routine job") will just go away.

Our press corps must get it into their skulls that the "profession of arms" is about killing people and knocking things down,

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and not just a job, a social institution or an equal opportunity employer. Until they can deliver the right stuff, like Cronkite, Pyle and Ward Just, they should leave the reporting to those who know the military score.

Col. David Hackworth served in the U.S. Army for 25 years and is America's most decorated living veteran. In 1989 he authored the international best-seller About Face.

RESTORE HOPE

Continued from page 35

and potentially risky job of general disarmament. A military spokesman insisted *this* is a task to be performed by a peace-keeping force or the United Nations.

But "if we don't disarm them," Johnston noted, "Somalia will slip back into anarchy when we leave."

"I hope the average Somali is intelligent enough to realize that the day is past where the gun rules," the doctor said on the eve of the Marines' landing. "However, if a Somali gunman wants to tangle with U.S. or U.N. forces, he's going to commit suicide."

Before the Marines landed at Mogadishu, an estimated 15,000 angry young men were carrying weapons on the streets of the capital. They had no respect for human life. It was not uncommon to see sidewalk executions — Somalis pulled from crowds at random and shot to death for no apparent reason. Factional fighting between warring clans had also claimed thousands of lives.

The Lost Generation

In the past year, some 30,000 people are believed to have died in Mogadishu from gunshot wounds or shelling. Across the country another estimated 300,000 Somalis, mostly women, children and the elderly, are believed to have starved to death: Relief agencies suspect that up to 2 million Somalis have died during two years of civil war.

Dr. Johnston regrets the U.S. military didn't come sooner. "But the real tragedy here is the fact that Somali leaders let their own people die by the thousands," he said, lamenting the loss of what he calls a whole generation in Somalia.

General Mohammed Farrah Aideed, a Soviet-trained military officer, claims to be the rightful leader of Somalia. Four miles from his sparsely furnished office, past potholed streets littered with rubble on the so-called "Green Line," is Ali Mahdi Mohammed, a mild-mannered businessman and hotelier who goes by the title, "Interim President of Somalia."

When the United Nations voted last summer to send 3,000 soldiers to Somalia to join 500 already there, Aideed threatened to send the soldiers home in body bags. A more reasonable man, Ali Mahdi

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said, "We need U.N. forces to protect the food."

Aideed and Mahdi are the kingpins in Somalia's clan system. But General Hersi Morgan, son-in-law of former dictator Siad Barre, is the wild card. Morgan's men kicked Aideed's army out of Baardheere, a town about 200km southwest of Mogadishu, in less than three hours. That's why Aideed and Mahdi have "kissed and made up." Neither one is strong enough to go up against Morgan.

A cease-fire between the warlords was engineered by U.S. Special Envoy Robert Oakley, who proclaimed, "We are one big happy family now." But few expect the marriage to last.

Before modern weapons like AKs were given to the Somalis, clansmen settled their disputes by giving each other camels and virgins. Ali Mahdi and Aideed, in their agreement, didn't mention camels or virgins, but said they would solve "all clan conflicts ... in a traditional way, jointly settling claims of properties destroyed in the civil war." Judging by the damage I saw in Mogadishu, even Allstate would have a hard time settling any property damage claims.

Passing The Blame

Almost everyone in Mogadishu blames the United Nations for turning a blind eye to what was happening in Somalia. When Siad Barre was forced to flee in January 1991, the United Nations pulled its staff out of Mogadishu and did not return for almost a year. The departure of the U.S. Embassy staff more than two years ago also closed the book on Somalia, a country once considered a pivotal pro-West ally in the so-called "Arc of Instability" that stretches from the Red Sea to the Persian Gulf.

But the current crisis in Somalia traces its roots back to August 1991, the beginning of the "Hunger Season" in the Horn of Africa.

Farmers in the region are precariously dependent on one major rain-fed growing season. If the crop is poor, the entire population is in big trouble. But the current famine is man-made, not a natural phenomenon. The famine that has brought Somalia to its knees was created by rival clans who stole food sent to feed the hungry. That's why U.S. troops and soldiers from other countries were sent to Somalia: to reopen distribution points and provide security for food convoys.

But what the United States and other nations have done is merely bandage a patient with a broken back. Unless Somalia is disarmed and some kind of responsible caretaker government established, Operation Restore Hope is doomed to have no lasting effect.

We've raised the Stars and Stripes at the U.S. Embassy in Mogadishu, reportedly moved by humanitarian reasons. But is that the real reason the U.S. committed

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thousands of troops to Somalia? Some observers say Washington is interested in oil — there's speculation that Somalia is sitting atop large oil reserves. Before Somalia slid into anarchy, major oil companies were in Mogadishu signing contracts for exploration, mostly up north in the Ogaden Desert.

Forward To Baidoa

Traveling in Somalia was expensive. Western journalists didn't go anywhere without armed guards. The going rate for the 300-mile round trip to Baidoa was \$600. This included a Toyota pickup and three armed bodyguards, but getting shot or robbed was only a relative danger. Somalis drive like there is no tomorrow.

We had two high-speed blowouts, one en route and one returning. But Somalis take everything in stride. In fact, they expect to have flats: The tires on my truck were as bald as my head, and had more plugs than I could count. Occasionally we slowed down to 65 mph as we roared through a village. Otherwise, we were traveling flat-out. The terrain was like the scrub country in west Texas.

Two days after the Marines landed at Mogadishu, I'd hired armed guards, two young men and a 14-year-old boy, carrying an M16, FAL and AK respectively; we drove to Baidoa to scope out the next objective.

The young boy sat across from me in the back of the Toyota Land Cruiser cradling a rusty AK in his lap. As we topped off the gas tank before leaving Mogadishu, one of his friends who spoke good English said, "He's a brave little boy."

Abde Mohammed was only 14 years old, but he was already a man, having fought two years in the Somali civil war. He couldn't communicate with me via the spoken word, but he pointed to his leg. Pulling up a pant leg of his trousers, he showed me his badge of courage — a chunk of lower leg missing.

Abde had been wounded during fighting in the capital. Although his friend said he was a man, he still acted like a little boy who loved the chocolate bar I gave him. For the next three days, Abde followed me everywhere I went in Baidoa. Somehow, that candy bar cemented an unspoken friendship between us.

Mission Accomplished: Next Mission

Once the Marines established a presence and some semblance of order in the capital city, it was time for them to push inland. Myself and other journalists and camp "followers" would be waiting. The trip from Mogadishu to Baidoa took about four-and-a-half hours with the driver keeping the pedal to the metal. But for military convoys like the one that brought U.S. Marines, it was an 18-hour trek.

As when the Marines came ashore on prime-time television, no secret was made



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of the fact that they were coming to Baidoa. By telegraphing their next move, the Marines reduced dangers of direct confrontations with armed gangs of young Somali thugs who had been terrorizing the population.

At 0510, day began to break in Baidoa. Twenty minutes later a pair of Marine Sea Cobras (AH-1Ws) from the *USS Tripoli* came roaring up the road at treetop level, accompanied by a couple of Huey gunships.

With the Marines coming, the technicals knew they only had a few shopping days left before Christmas, so they were trying to grab everything they could get their hands on.

The gunships were loaded for bear. The Cobras carried enough ordnance to blow Baidoa to tiny bits. Each of the Whiskey models carried 2,500 pounds of HE — everything from TOWs to Hellfire missiles. And their mini-guns were charged, with orders to “vaporize” any opposition. None materialized, thanks in part to efforts by U.S. envoy Oakley who had met with local leaders in Baidoa the day before. The two town elders ordered everyone with a gun to stay off the streets. Many townspeople turned their weapons over to Marines at the airport. More than 100 weapons were confiscated, along with a large cache of explosives.

A handful of nomads who had built dome-like shelters along the road leading

into Baidoa stood beside smoky campfires and watched as the armored column passed by shortly after 0600. Later, the first Marines who patrolled the streets of Baidoa were greeted by children shouting “*Rambo!*”

By the time the Marines reached the airport, it was apparent to everyone that the bad guys who had been tooling around town in technicals were not in the mood to cross swords with the Marines. Several had tried a few days earlier near the U.S. Embassy; they died.

It's Killer Time

Before Marines took control of nine former military airfields in Somalia, those strips would shut down for three hours each day so drug planes from Ethiopia could land and unload tons of khat. Reporters who tried the local vice said it gave them a real buzz by the end of the day. Somalis who chewed khat were so wired by dark that they did crazy things like shoot at low-flying Marine helicopters. Return fire, however, usually ended their drug habit.

Although Somalis consider khat a way of life, the Marine Corps considered it to be an illegal substance and took it away from any Somali who wandered into their positions.

The arrival of Marines in Mogadishu caused a shortage of khat; merchants in the market threatened to retaliate if

Marines didn't allow the drug flights to continue.

By the time I arrived in Baidoa, the local *banditos* were buzzed out on khat. Somalis strip the leaves off the plants and then peel the tender bark off tiny stems. Eventually, they nibble on the stalk itself, like rabbits.

The situation was bad — much worse than I had expected. Main Street had a surreal quality, like something out of a spaghetti western. I expected to see Clint Eastwood come walking from one of the bars, biting on a cigar.

Weapons were everywhere. Bad guys hung out of Toyota trucks and cars with no glass; hundreds of them. The sound of a firefight at the northern edge of town could be heard above traffic. By the time I worked my way to the edge of town, the wounded were being transported by wheelbarrow to a hospital operated by the International Medical Corps (IMC).

Running inside, I found a nurse from Seattle, Washington, tending a Somali man who had been hit in the hips by a burst of AK fire. As Leslie Iverson worked, she explained how his pelvis had been shattered by a bullet, his bladder burst, “and heaven only knows what internal damage ...” Blood dripped off the examining table and pooled on the floor. Every time Iverson and an assistant tried to examine the extent of the man's wounds he screamed in pain. Since IMC was out of painkilling



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drugs like morphine, the man was lifted from the table, placed on a stretcher and carried to a nearby building where the doomed were sent to die. Iverson said the poor soul would probably be dead by sundown.

Death's Doorway

On the way into the emergency room, I had passed three women who looked like they were resting in the courtyard. "Excuse me," I said as I stepped over them and rushed up the steps. A half-hour later on my way out, they were still laying there. It wasn't until I stooped down and looked into one woman's face that I realized she was sleeping, all right — eternally. She and the other two women had died within a few feet of medical attention — not an uncommon sight in Baidoa, where fresh graves fill almost every empty field in town.

The local hospital run by the IMC was full of wounded. The operating room looked like a butcher shop. Amputated limbs lay in piles; bloody bandages were scattered about. The scene looked like something Matthew Brady might have recorded for posterity during the American Civil War.

Friends and families of the wounded maintained a silent vigil at their bedsides in the recovery room, fanning flies away with sweat rags. Most of the wounded had been kneecapped, or shot in the lower part

of the leg, leading one to believe that the banditos couldn't shoot straight. But in Somalia, a crippled person enjoys privileges other people don't. For example, a crippled man can hobble into any warehouse in the country and take what he wants, and no one tries to stop him.

Baidoa's population had by now swollen to more than 70,000 as refugees fled factional fighting in southern Somalia. They had crossed more than 200km of wasteland on foot in search of food, water and safety, only to find none of the above in Baidoa.

The trek to Baidoa became a death march for many Somalis. One of the refugees told me he had buried his wife and eight children along the way. Russ Kerr, vice president for World Vision, one of the many relief agencies in Baidoa, said husbands and wives had an unwritten pact between them.

A Time To Sow, A Time To Weep

"Being the strongest, the husband would give his ration of food to his wife and children," Kerr said. "When the husband collapsed and died, the wife would stop eating so that her children might live. Soon she, too, would die. An older child would step forward and carry his younger brother and sister until he or she dropped dead. However, it was not uncommon to find several children lying atop their

mother's body in the desert, all victims of starvation."

Many of the almost 50,000 refugees who fled to Baidoa were farmers, and Kerr told me that if those folks don't return to the land by planting time, Somalia's so-called "breadbasket" will be bare come harvesttime in July.

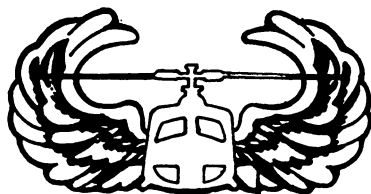
Yet this famine that killed more than 2 million Somalis and threatens to destroy another 1 million was created by rival clans who stole food supplies sent to feed the hungry.

"That's why we came to Somalia," said Marine Colonel Greg Newbold as he played traffic cop on Main Street in Baidoa, supervising the first food convoy escorted there by Marines.

A half-dozen LAV-25s and Humvees armed with TOW missiles, 40mm grenade launchers and .50-caliber machine guns escorted two pickup truckloads of Australian biscuits and Uni-Mix. Overkill, but the Marines wanted to make a point to the armed bandits who had held Baidoa hostage. The message was simple: There's a new guy in town, and he's bad.

Within a day after Marines rolled into Baidoa, they were riding shotgun on semi-loads of supplies headed for outlying villages. By 28 December, Marines and members of the Army's 10th Mountain Division from Fort Drum, New York, had secured key food distribution points in eight Somali towns and cities such as Oddur,

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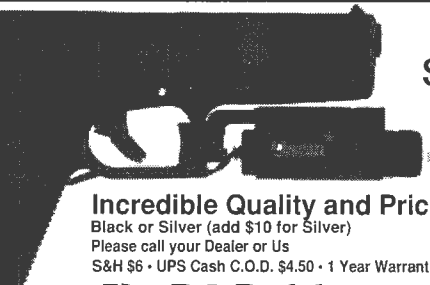
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the southern port city of Kismaayo, and Belet Huen.

While Marines fanned out into the interior of Somalia, the search for a permanent solution to the country's problems continued at the diplomatic level.

But Somalia is like a jigsaw puzzle with many pieces missing. Sadly, some of the missing pieces may never be found, such as the whole generation lamented by Dr. Johnston of CARE USA.

A regular contributor, Dale B. Cooper covered the Gulf War on the ground for SOF, and continues his grunt-level coverage of American troops with their deployment to Somalia. Next month he looks at the isolated firefights that took place during Operation Restore Hope.✕

SOF TEAM

Continued from page 39

much meat, drank respectable amounts of good, cheap red wine and, of course, ogled the young lovelies.

All Croats we spoke with emphatically noted that they did not need or want troops from the West — or even offensive air strikes. "We simply want the opportunity to defend ourselves," is the way Glasnovic put it. "How can we successfully fight the Serbs and their T-84s with our few captured T-54/55s? We're even forced to reload rounds for our tanks main guns. For God's sake, give us a fighting chance by removing the arms embargo," he said.

The above comments were reiterated by General Ruso, a former French Legionnaire who is OIC of the Croatian special operations forces. "We need MILANs; we need TOWs," he exclaimed. "The United Nations embargos Saddam Hussein. Why not the Serbs? What the Serbs are doing in Bosnia is just as bad if not worse than what Hussein did in Kuwait." Amen, brother.

As we go to press, it appears the Serbs have been pressured into an agreement that would divide Bosnia-Herzegovina into 10 semi-autonomous provinces. But even if this plan is accepted and implemented, the Balkan cauldron will continue to bubble. The Serbs still occupy a third of Croatia and it is unlikely the Croats will ever be able to assemble the military strength to force them out, which is the only way they could likely be made to leave.

Also, if the war spreads to neighboring Kosovo, which is 95% ethnic Albanian, the Albanians will enter the fracas. And if Albania goes head-to-head with the Serbs, the Turks will probably join in as they have recently signed a treaty with Albania to that effect.

If the Turks fire-up the Serbs, the Greeks are sure to want a piece of the action. And on and on and on and on: shades of 1914.✕

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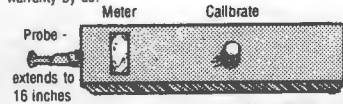
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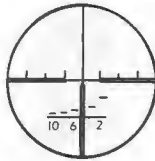
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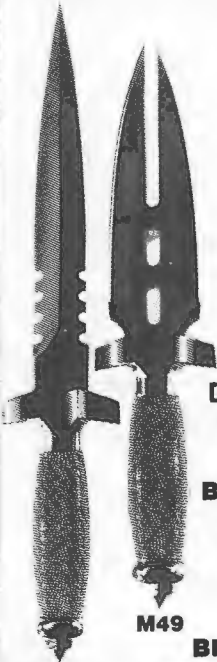
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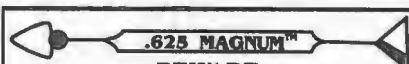
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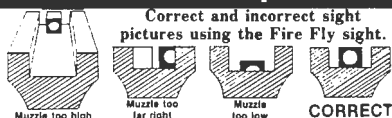
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ADVERTISERS INDEX

Al Mar Knives.....	23
Alpec Team.....	74
Amazing Concepts.....	69
CCS.....	74
Central Mobile Communications.....	72
Cold Steel.....	71
Collector's Armoury.....	69
Dillman Karate Int'l.....	15
Double Day Military.....	10 & 11
Emergency Field Hospital.....	70
Excalibur Enterprises.....	14
Executive Protection.....	68
Facets Advertising.....	15 & 68
Fighting Knives Magazine.....	27
GA Sneakers.....	71
Game Finder.....	67
Genesis Delivery Systems.....	73
Hamblen Sales.....	69
Heckler & Koch, Inc.....	8
ISECO Inc.....	65
Kaufman's West.....	71
Michigan Body Armor.....	71
National ID Center.....	9
Olympic Arms.....	Cover 4
Orpheus.....	70
Paladin Press.....	7
SOF Back Issues.....	64
SOF Convention 1993.....	18
SOF Cover Photo offer.....	Cover 3
SOF Three Gun Match.....	74
SOF T-Shirts.....	66
S.T.A.N.O.....	26
Shotgun News.....	Cover 2
Sonic Technologies.....	25
Vic Tokal.....	21
Your Supply Depot.....	13
SUPPLY LOCKER	
Alpha Publications.....	77
Auto-Ordnance Corp.....	76
Celestial Enterprises.....	75
Cutlery Shoppe.....	76
David Steele Ent.....	76
Eden Press.....	77
4W Ammunition.....	76
Greene Military Dist.....	76
Gun Parts Corp.....	77
International Military Antiques.....	76
Jimmy Lile Handmade Knives.....	77
Kahles USA.....	75
LA Law Enforcers.....	77
LRRP K-9 Services.....	76
M.O.R.O. Int'l.....	75
Matthews Police Supply.....	77
National ID Center.....	75
Silvermans.....	77
Trident Security Products.....	76
U.S. Cavalry Inc.....	75
USI Corporation.....	75
Westbury Sales.....	75

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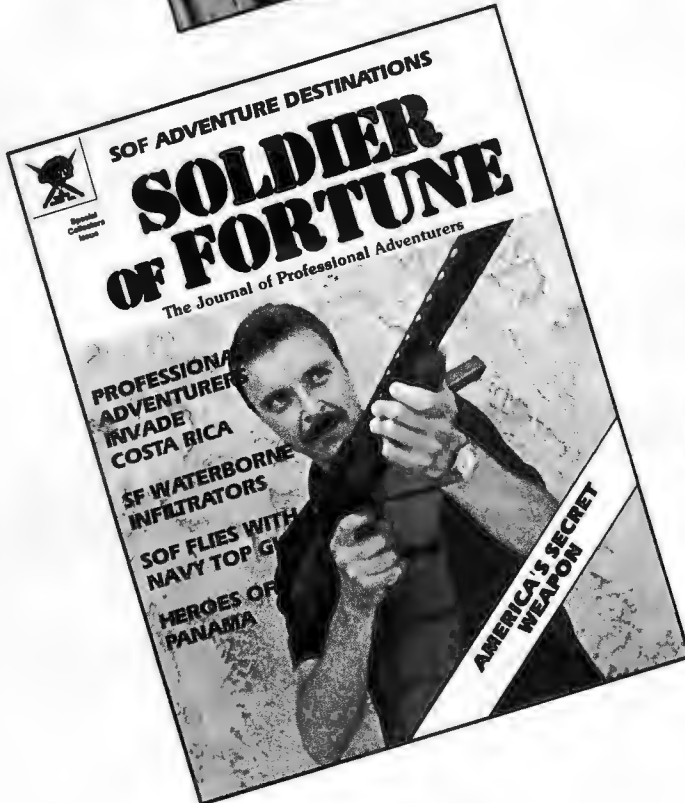
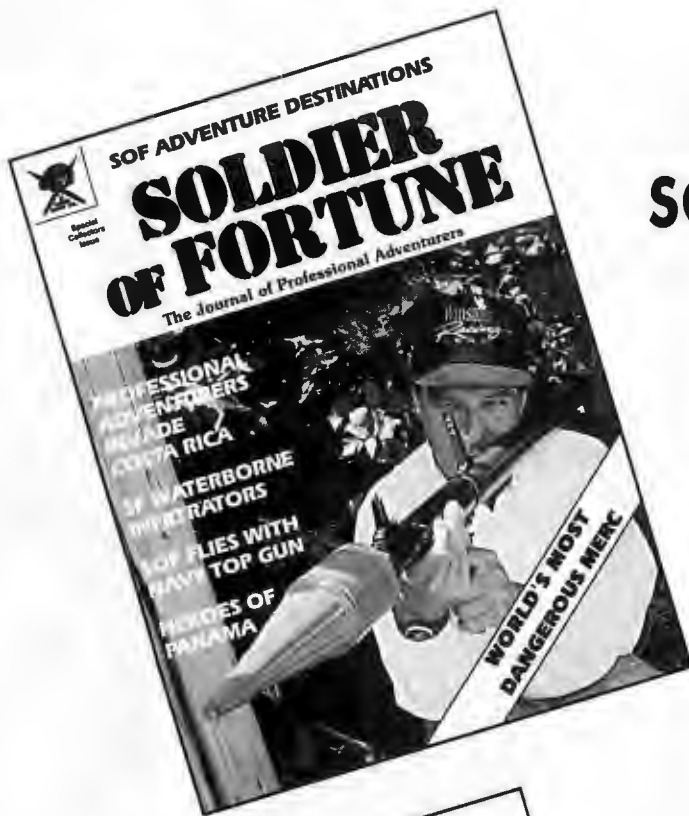
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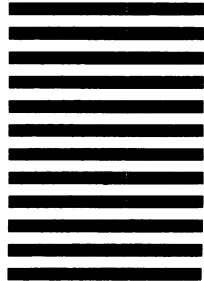
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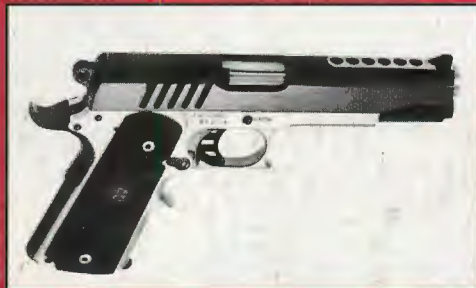
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